

Children's Sermon for Human Rights Day

As the children come forward make a few of them sit further away, perhaps on another pew, or do something that physically separates them – like cover them with a sheet (its probably best to pick children who you know are a little more precocious, and expect a little horseplay), you could even put a piece of tape on the floor and make some of the students sit on one side or the other.

Start talking to the other children about how advent is a very special time of year; it's a time of year that we prepare for Christ's coming. If the children you have separated try to participate, tell them that you won't listen to them. Tell the children, who aren't in the separated group, that because the other children are over there/covered up that they don't really matter.

Pause a second, and ask if they think that separating people is how Jesus would like us to prepare for his birth. Hopefully there will be a resounding NO! Bring the all the children together. And ask again why God wouldn't be very happy about separating and ignoring people.

Close by saying:

"Before Jesus was born, God told people what he would be like. He said that he would bring release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. All around the world there are people who are separated away from others. Sometimes its because they believe in Jesus, other times its because they are girls, sometimes because of the color of their skin or because they are poor. And that's not what God wanted. Jesus came to the world to help so that all people can sit together. Everyone has the right to be a person and to be loved by God.

In 1948, a group of leaders from around the world signed a document that says that people have rights, and that all people no matter what ought to be respected. But in order for that paper to matter, and in order for us to really prepare of Christ's coming, we need to make sure people aren't forced to sit apart from us. We need to work to love and respect all of God's people."

If you have time you might want to ask them how they could do this.

End with a prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for all of your people. Thank you for the people in this room and for the people around the world. Please God; help us to love one another. Help all people learn to respect one another. Most of all God, thank you for sending us Jesus to show us the way to treat one another! In Jesus' Name, amen.

