

Family Justice Challenge

Your family is invited to follow along on a weekend challenge that corresponds with the adult 21 Day Justice Challenge. Each family-centered lesson shares Scripture, a storybook, suggestions for family discussion, and a hands-on activity. Rent the suggested book from the library, or click the provided link to watch the book read aloud.

Week 1: Value & Dignity

“I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” from Psalm 139:14 ESV

“And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” Matthew 10:30 NIV

Read the Book:

“The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be,” by Joanna Gaines

Or click this link <https://youtu.be/LRSrhDcUWp0> to watch the video read aloud.

Discuss the following with your family:

Show your family your favorite hot air balloon from the story.

Which characters in the story are the most like you?

Is there anyone in the story that looks or thinks differently than you? What do you like about their hot air balloon?

Imagine if all of the hot air balloons looked exactly the same... would the sky look as beautiful?

Family Art Project:

As a family, create something together. You may choose to create a drawing, painting, mosaic, block tower, LEGO creation, a cake, or whatever your family thinks up.

Discuss the following with your family:

When you are finished with your project, take time to discuss the unique contributions that each person made as you worked together, and also the differences in how each of you worked to complete your family's creation. For example, you might note how one family member may have planned everything before they even began working. Or you might notice that another one of you dove in right away, and adapted their ideas as you worked together. One of you may have been focused on small details, and another on the big picture. Of course, your observations will vary based on your own family members' unique personalities and approaches.

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Week 2: Justice & Righteousness & Shalom

“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

Amos 5:24 ESV

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 ESV

Read the Book:

“God’s Very Good Idea” by Trillia Newbell

Or click this link = <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJccC4Tf9tE&list=PLYdfjomJ8FYxQVWCuzhCXZnfgC0fD4fwd&index=8> to watch the book read aloud.

You can find this book and others read aloud by our church members and staff when you look for “Loved Sent” on Youtube, under the “L+S Children and Family Reads” playlist.

Discuss the following with you family:

What is one way you can show someone that you love them?

Can you think of a way we choose not to love others, by how we treat them?

Looking back to the Scripture verses and the book, how does God show His love to us when we make a mistake and mess things up? What can we do to make it better?

From what you learned in the story, who does Jesus welcome into His family?

Same, Different Activity: (Printable attached)

Draw a picture of yourself. Then, draw a picture of someone you care about. Discuss a few ways that you are the same, and a few ways that you are different from each other. Then, share your favorite thing about that person.

SAME, DIFFERENT

Draw a picture of yourself. Then, draw a picture of someone you care about. Discuss a few ways that you are the same, and a few ways that you are different from each other. Then, share your favorite thing about that person.

This is me.	This is _____.
Ways we are the same:	Ways we are different:

My favorite thing about this person is:

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Week 3: Reconciliation Matters

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” -Jesus in Matthew 22:39 NIV

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.” Isaiah 1:17 NIV

Read the Book:

“Speak Up” by Miranda Paul

Or click this link <https://youtu.be/x5lnnaSp1qI> to watch the book read aloud.

You can find this book and others read aloud by Lutherans for Racial Justice when you look for “LRJ Reads” on Youtube.

Discuss the following with your family:

Who are some people around you who you could speak up to, if you saw something bad happening, or if you knew of someone who needed help?

Can you think of a time someone spoke up for you? How did it make you feel?

Can you think of anyone who you could speak up for?

Band-Aid Activity:

On notecards, Post-its, or small pieces of paper, write out different injuries/illnesses. Injuries/illnesses might include: broken arm, skinned knee, tummy ache, etc. Distribute an injury card to each member in your family. After each family member has read their card aloud, hand each person a Band-Aid, regardless of their “injury” or “sickness.”

Discuss the following with your family:

Was it equal that everyone got a Band-Aid?

Was it fair that everyone got a Band-Aid?

Would a Band-Aid help you if you had a sprained ankle/tummy ache?

How did it feel to get a Band-Aid, when you needed something different?

Explain that equal and fair are not the same thing. Sometimes if you treat everyone the same, you end up treating people unfairly. There are times when each of us may need a little more help, attention or kindness.