

All That We Share

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| Objective: | To encourage youth to find common interests with each other. To show them that we often have more in common with other youth than we realize. Understand that we often hurt others when we concentrate on our differences. |
| Supplies: | Dr. Seuss book <i>The Sneetches</i> Glow sticks Masking tape |

Activity #1 – The Sneetches

- **Supplies:** Dr. Seuss book *The Sneetches*
- **Directions:** either read book to youth or tell the story in your own words; show the pictures as you go through the story.
- **Discuss:**
 - what made them the same?
 - what made them different?
 - how big was the green star?
 - how did this negatively affect them?
 - feeling left out
 - feeling superior
 - wasting A LOT of money
 - wasting A LOT of time
 - emphasize the end:
 - Sylvester McMonkey McBean: "They never will learn. No. You can't teach a Sneetch!"
 - Sneetches: The day they decided that Sneetches are Sneetches. And no kind of Sneetch is the best on the beaches.
 - what can we learn from this story?
 - what would happen if we looked for areas that we have in common instead of concentrating on those few and small areas in which we differ?
 - what are some of the "green stars" we make too important?

Activity #2 – Raise Your Hand If ...

- **Supplies:** glow sticks (have enough for each youth to have one)
- **Directions:** youth are to raise glow stick in the following statements apply to them; turn off lights for a greater effect
 - **Tips:** use phone light or flashlight to see your list of questions; adapt statements to fit your youth group
 - **Tell Youth:** "If this statement describes you, hold up your glow stick. Look around and see how many others are just like you!"
- **Raise your hand if ...**
 - You have the letter T in your name
 - You have a basement in your house
 - You share (or used to share) a bedroom with a sibling
 - You are left handed
 - You have brown eyes
 - You have ever missed the bus
 - You have forgotten to brush your teeth
 - You have a pet that's not a dog or a cat
 - You have allergies
 - You can play an instrument
 - You cannot play any instrument
 - You love to read books
 - Your favorite shoes are boots
 - Your favorite class/subject is math
 - You have traveled outside of Ohio
 - You have ever burned food
 - You know how to make macaroni and cheese
 - You have ever got an F on something
 - You have ever been embarrassed
 - You have ever been made fun of
 - You have ever said something that sounded dumb
 - You don't know what you're doing with your life yet
 - You have ever had a bike wreck
 - You have ever locked yourself out of your car or house
- **Discuss:**
 - Were you surprised at how many others raised their hands when you did?
 - Have you ever felt like you were the only one?
 - How does it make you feel to know you are NOT the only one?

Activity #3 – Step Out of the Boxes

- **Supplies:** masking tape
- **Directions:** ahead of youth meeting, create boxes on the floor using masking tape; make boxes large enough for several youth to stand inside (see diagram below).
 - Tell youth to stand in the "boxes" (marked off area) that best describes them; consider what separates your youth (age, schooling, etc.)
 - Once the youth are in their "boxes" have them step into the middle when you read something from the list below that describes them. Have them high five or shake hands with people who they have this in common with. Then, tell youth to return to their boxes before you read the next one.
 - **Box Ideas:** (see below)

Move to the middle if you ...

- Have a part-time job
- Had a cold this winter
- Lost someone close to you in the past year
- Your favorite color is green
- Have blonde hair
- Might be considered the class clown
- Are adopted or your family has taken in foster children
- Love to sing in the shower
- Have ever felt lonely
- Wear a watch
- Have a relative named John (first or middle name)
- Have ever had a car accident (including fender bender)
- Have wondered if there is really a God
- Don't or didn't have a cell phone until you were older than 15
- Has had (or currently has) a relative or friend who won't talk to you (broken relationships)
- Like to fish or go hunting
- Don't like to go shopping
- Have or have had a curfew
- Sing tenor
- Have ever lost your temper and was sorry
- Have ever been on a diet to lose weight or gain weight

Youth Activity Lessons

- **Discuss:**
 - Maybe there is more that brings us together than we think.
 - We need to beware of the "Us Versus Them" way of thinking.
 - We are FAMILY (God's family).
- **Things to Consider:**
 - Who in this youth family is feeling "left behind"?
 - When we have activities, services, bonfires, is there someone sitting by himself or herself?
 - Is there someone who doesn't seem to fit it?
 - How many things do you probably have in common with them?
 - Is there someone hurting and you can relate?

Box Ideas:

#1 – Completely finished with school (graduated from high school and/or college)

#2 – Currently going to college or a trade school

#3 – Currently attending middle school

#4 – Currently in high school