

Crayons

Objective:	Show youth that each one brings value to the youth group. We need them all!
Supplies:	Box of crayons, tape or tacky putty, coloring pages

Activity Part #1

- **Directions:**
 - each youth is to take a coloring page and only one crayon; tell youth to color page in any way he/she likes, using only that one color.
 - When youth are finished, display all coloring pages (wall, chalkboard, etc.) using tape or putty.
 - Put up one coloring page that has not been colored yet.
- **Discuss:**
 - Each one of you has a crayon (tell youth to hold up his/her crayon). Your crayon represents you – your individual traits, talents, and quirks.
 - Your picture that you colored represents your accomplishments, your abilities, and your personality.
 - You are special – no matter what color your crayon is or where it was in the box (front row, back row, top, bottom).



Activity Part #2

- **Directions:**
 - have youth (one at a time) bring their individual crayon and color parts of the picture that best fit their color until the entire page has been colored.
 - Examples:
 - green – trees and grass; blue – sky; yellow – sun; etc.
- **Discuss:**
 - Which coloring picture catches your attention first?
 - Notice how the variety of colors in the last coloring page makes a beautiful picture.
 - When we only use one crayon, notice how limited it is.
 - **Consider:**
 - If you keep to yourself, have few or no friends, allow few other "crayons" into your picture, how might that affect you?
 - What might be missing?

Youth Activity Lessons

- **Similar Crayons**
 - what if all the crayons were the same color?
 - would you buy a box of all the same color? Why or why not?
 - what if all the crayons were almost the same?
 - If you picked red, what colors would be similar? (Pink, Burgundy, etc.)
 - What if your picture only consisted of you and crayons almost the same color?
 - people who are similar in likes, personality, views on life
 - people you get along with the best
 - people who react and see things the same way you do
 - while they do add to your picture, is that enough?
- **Contrasting Crayons**
 - how does using contrasting colors add to your picture?
 - contrasting colors can "complement" a picture
 - Definition of complement: "to supply something that is missing but necessary to make a perfect whole"
 - **Ask:**
 - how could having different "crayons" in our life be a good thing?
 - they could bring another viewpoint that you might have failed to consider
 - they have different life experiences than you
 - they might teach you to be more compassionate
 - has someone ever shared something with you and you said, "I never thought about it that way"?
- **Get the 64 Count Box**
 - **Ask:**
 - who had crayons on their back-to-school list in elementary school?
 - did anyone ever get the 64-count box with a sharpener?
 - **Discuss:**
 - you are very limited with the box of only 8 crayons
 - if you had a choice, would you choose the large box of 64 or more?
 - when you limit your circle to just a few people, what are you missing out on?
 - many personalities and perspectives can be beneficial
- **There's Just One You**
 - **Ask:**
 - what would the world be like if everyone was just like you?
 - might sound good at first
 - consider people in history who were a little different, had different ideas; what did they contribute?
 - Thomas Edison
 - Alexander Graham Bell
 - the Wright brothers
 - **Read:**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:14-18, 29-30
 - Christ has a place in the body for every one of us
 - some are feet, some are hands, some are the hearing, and some are the smelling

Youth Activity Lessons

- though very different, all are vitally important
- **Broken Crayons**
 - **Ask:**
 - do you throw away your broken crayons?
 - are they completely useless?
 - have you ever tried to tape them or glue them back together?
 - who might the broken crayons represent?
 - youth from broken homes
 - youth who are struggling with _____
 - someone with a broken heart
 - **Discuss:**
 - do we avoid the "broken crayons"?
 - if so, what might we be missing?
 - Helen Keller was blind, deaf, and dumb. She was an uncontrollable child whose parents had just about given up on her. But someone took the time and patience to work with her and spend time with her until Helen's true character and person came out. Helen was special, but it wasn't obvious at first glance.
 - became an author (12 published books), lecturer, and activist
 - earned her bachelor of arts degree
 - learned to "hear" people's speech by reading their lips with her hands—her sense of touch had heightened
 - she must have seemed like a BROKEN CRAYON – but look what she added to the big picture
 - have you ever tried to help a "broken crayon"?
 - if you were to send all your broken crayons back to the manufacturer, it is possible that the crayons could be melted and remade into brand new crayons
 - have you pointed a "broken crayon" to his or her Maker?

Quotes to Consider:

- "We could learn a lot from crayons; some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, while others bright, some have weird names, but they all have learned to live together in the same box" (R Fulghum).
- "Broken crayons still color the same" (T Shelton).
- "Life is about using the whole box of crayons."