

Women's Ministries Resource

Cultural Awareness Week

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OUTLINE:

Opening Prayer

Introduction

Small Group Discussion

Activity

Benediction

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Watercolor pens

Watercolor canvasses size 5 X 7

Extra Programming Ideas:

Have a special guest from a local cultural center give a presentation on their culture.

Spotlight Sponsorship Opportunities and Mission Team opportunities to your ladies.

Set up a buffet of different cultural foods from local restaurants (example, Indian foods, Mexican foods, Thai foods, Ethiopian foods, European foods, Korean foods.)

Opening Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, when you were about to suffer, you prayed for your disciples that they might all be one, as you are in the Father and the Father in you. Look down in pity on the many divisions among those who profess your faith. Heal the wounds that the pride of man and the craft of Satan has inflicted on your people. Break down the walls of separation that divide Christians. Look with compassion on all souls and bring them together under the Church.

Introduction

Invite the women to bring something or dress in something that represents their culture or heritage. Then have the women go around the room and share a little bit about what they have brought or worn.

Small Group Discussion

Small group questions are designed to stimulate discussion of hard topics. Examples and information are given after each question to help the leader guide conversation. Video clips are also given to assist in conversation.

What tears down a community?

If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. Mark 3:25 NIV

Similarly, a family splintered by feuding will fall apart. Mark 3:25 NLT

On June 16, 1858, President Abraham Lincoln gave his first speech in his campaign to become the U.S. Senator for Illinois. Although he did not win that campaign, his speech had great impact. He quotes Mark 3:25 and this phrase from scripture is what carried Lincoln through to his Presidency. He uses this phrase in the Gettysburg and his second Inaugural address.

"If we could first know where we are and whither we are tending, we could better judge what to do and how to do it. We are now far into the fifth year since a policy was initiated with the avowed object and confident promise of putting an end to slavery agitation. Under the operation of that policy, that agitation has not only not ceased but has constantly augmented. In my opinion, it will not cease until a crisis shall have been reached and passed. "A house divided against itself cannot stand." I believe this government cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved; I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates will push it forward till it shall become alike lawful in all the states, old as well as new, North as well as South."

Division tears down the community. The enemy disguises himself in small ways to slowly begin the separation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1R2H6vFu_c

What builds up a community?

Unity builds up community. We see the world through different lenses and God intended for us to be unique and different so that together we can build the Kingdom of God. We are stronger together.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6_byxQeKto

What gives us hope?

God's faithfulness through our story. We all have a story and sharing our stories is the bravest thing we can do. Listening to one another's stories creates space for God's grace. When we begin to hear one another's stories and create a safe place, community is built and there is unity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W67lhZbmBVw>

Activity:

Have one of the women read the poem, and then have the whole group read the poem a second time in unison. A handout is available.

Undivided

First Call

*We may worship different ways
We may praise Him
And yet spend all of our days
Living life divided*

*But when we seek Him with open hearts
He removes the walls we built
That keep us apart
We trust Him to unite us*

*In our hearts, we're undivided
Worshipping one Savior, one Lord
In our hearts, we're undivided
Bound by His spirit forevermore
Undivided*

*It doesn't matter if we agree
All He asks is that we serve Him faithfully
And love as He first loved us
He made us in His image*

*And in His eyes, we are all the same
And though our methods they may be different
Jesus is the bond that will remain*

*In our hearts, we're undivided
Worshiping one Savior, one Lord
In our hearts, we're undivided
Bound by His spirit forevermore
Undivided*

*In our hearts, we're undivided
Worshiping one Savior, one Lord
In our hearts, we're undivided
Bound by His spirit forevermore
Undivided*

After reading through the poem, give each woman watercolor pens and a small watercolor canvas. Have each woman paint her response to the poem on the canvas.

Benediction

Martin Luther King, Jr's prayer for the church:

Lord,

We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children - Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow - will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen.

- The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.