



Human Rights in Community

Religious Education Activity

Activity Overview and Materials Required

Ages: 12 and up

Time: 45-60 minutes

Goal: Name examples of human rights and increase understanding of human rights as community-held ideals that must be upheld in collaboration with others.

Materials

Device to view [What Are Human Rights? video](#)

Butcher paper or white board

Marker or white board marker

Drawing paper – one for each participant

Assortment of crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers for drawing

Description of Activity

1. Chalice Lighting – We light this chalice to celebrate the importance of human rights for ourselves and all people around the world. (1 minute)
2. Watch the video [What Are Human Rights?](#) (2 minutes)
3. Discuss the video. Ask “What are human rights?” “Let’s name some human rights.” This can include more than were explicitly touched upon in the video, such as the right to a trial and the right to a be free from slavery. [This resource from the UN Declaration of Human Rights can](#)



HUMAN RIGHTS IN COMMUNITY

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[offer additional suggestions.](#) (5 minutes)

4. Each participant is invited to draw or create an image depicting a human right that is important to them. (10 minutes)
5. Once the drawings are created, have participants switch drawings. Now go around the group and each person will describe what the drawing (not their own) is depicting. Facilitator records the summary of the description, i.e., what human right is being depicted, on the butcher paper or white board. Allow each participant to interpret the drawings without interruption from the original artist, but ask the artists to make note of how they feel as their drawings are being described by someone else and any urges they may have to offer their own correction or explanation while their drawing is being interpreted by someone else. (10 minutes)
6. Now have the artists go around and explain their own drawings. What human right were they aiming to depict? Facilitator records this on the butcher paper or white board. (10 minutes)
7. Have a group discussion about the different human rights that have been collected. What does it say that there are many different human rights listed by this group? Do some people feel that certain rights are more important than others? (5 minutes)
8. Now ask the artists what it felt like to have their drawings explained by someone else. Did anyone feel misunderstood? What was that like? (5 minutes)
9. Closing discussion: Every human right outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is important and universal – we cannot pick and choose which we subscribe to. But that doesn't mean we all have the same priorities about which human rights are most important or should be addressed first in a crisis. Given this, it is important that individuals and communities have the opportunity to speak for themselves. When others speak for us, incorrect assumptions are sometimes made and misunderstandings can happen. These misunderstandings can lead to real harm if they go unchecked. (2 minutes)
10. Extinguishing the Chalice – As we extinguish this flame, we are reminded to uplift the voices of those who may otherwise be silenced. (1 minute)



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Preparation and Modifications

Preparation for Activity:

- Download or arrange to share [What Are Human Rights? video](#)
- Gather materials

Modifications for Zoom:

- Use “share screen” function to show the *What Are Human Rights?* video.
- Play music during the drawing time. Participants can use physical paper or a digital drawing program such as the Zoom white board or MS Paint.
- Spotlight each participant when it is their turn to share their drawing, using the camera for physical drawings and the share screen function for digital creations.

Resources:

- [Link to What Are Human Rights? video](#)
- [Link to UN Declaration of Human Rights resource](#)