

✘ Cultural Competence ✘

YOUNG PERSON HAS KNOWLEDGE OF AND COMFORT WITH PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT CULTURAL/RACIAL/ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS.

By Stephanie Storlie

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Stephanie was born in Springdale, Arkansas, and raised in Moorhead, MN. She is a freshman Youth and Family Ministry major at Augsburg College who spent the first 3 months as a chemistry major. Stephanie has two sisters, Katie and Amy, who support her in all that she does. Stephanie loves to sit around relaxing in her free time.

Romans 15:7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you.

- What just happened in our group? What thoughts and feelings were going on?
- What is it like to not be included?
- How does this activity relate to cultural and ethnic issues that are most concerning?
- What generalities and prejudices are made of various groups of people in your communities?
- What reasons or fears are used to justify excluding certain people?
- Why is it that certain groups of people seem to be more privileged?
- What effect does ethnicity have on relationships? Classmates? Someone sitting next to you on the bus? Close friendships?
- Why didn't God create people to be more like each other?
- What does it mean to "welcome as Christ has welcomed you?"
- The Bible says that we must love each other. What does it mean to show love toward your neighbor?
- If you could choose to be of another ethnic background for a day, what would it be and why?
- What memorable experiences have you had with other cultures?
- How does your own ethnicity affect you in your daily life?
- Have you ever been in a situation that has been uncomfortable because of your ethnicity?



So What?

Which word from the list stands out? Why?
What is an action triggered by this word that you can take?

- welcome ● justice ● equality
- fairness ● hope ● respect
- understanding ● listening
- opportunity ● education
- awareness



Candle Time

Lay out a map of the world or a globe. Invite the participants to close their eyes and place a small heart sticker on the map. Pray for the people to the closest land area to the dot. Place another heart sticker on the back of each hand as a reminder to continue to pray for and love everyone.



EXPLORE

Genesis 11:9	...scattered them abroad over the face...
Leviticus 19:24	...you shall love the alien as yourself...
Psalms 24:1	The earth is the Lord's ...and those who live in it.
Zechariah 7:10	...do not devise evil in your hearts against one another
Ephesians 2:4-14	For we are what he has made us, created in Christ...
1 John 4:20	Those who say, "I love God," and hate...



Leader Page

Discussion Goal

Accept all people as valued and created people of God.

Background

Being culturally competent by understanding, and desiring to know about people's history, beliefs and backgrounds is very important. Societies become more and more a kaleidoscope of people with differing cultures and races. Our neighborhoods, schools, work places, government and places of worship are being challenged to think and live in new ways. Welcoming others is an expected societal norm being taught by many schools and work places. It is also part of being a follower of Christ as shown in Romans 15:7. Welcoming diversity is a Christian value which requires honest conversing, listening and understanding. This leads to a willingness to protect and share status and opportunity.

"One can not hate a person whose story we know."

Motivate

Collect several sets of random objects such as pennies, candy, birthday candle, etc. that can fit in to cups. Place a cup in front of each person.

Hand out the objects one at a time, but every time leaving out (or giving less) to a certain group of people. Choose a trait that about a third of your group has. Base this on a color they are wearing, hair color, eye color or some other similar trait. Make up a reason why this particular group doesn't get anything (or gets less) in their cups.

Say things to the privileged group like:

"You are so smart." "I really like the way you look." "You look like you do well in school."

Say things to the unprivileged group like:

*"I just don't have enough for everyone." "Maybe if you were more like the others."
"I wish you people weren't so lazy." "I gave you something last time and you weren't even grateful."*

Observe what happens. Pay attention to reactions. Almost everything that is said or done can add to the discussion.



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