Session 4 Pursuing Justice

Key learning

Children will learn that the things we value deserve to be treated with care and respect, and that justice is important in creating peace. They will also understand that, although the world is not perfect, we can work together to make it a better place for everyone.

Before the session

You will need:

- Slides for this session, with sound
- Pupils to bring special object from home
- Copy of Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry
- Head template (provided in resources)
- Colourful yarn
- Scissors
- Textured animal prints
- Small world animals
- Large card/paper
- Glue
- Collection of junk modelling resources to create collage
- Colouring pencils, including skin- toned colouring pencils

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Story

Be Curious (Community)

In this session the children are encouraged to identify things that are special to them and the ways we treat things that are special (and ways we do not treat them).

You may wish to begin the session by reminding the children of the class promises from previous lesson.



Invite children to bring a special object from home to share with the class. This might be something that holds meaning for them; such as a toy, a family photo, a cultural item, or something they've made. Encourage families to support children in choosing something appropriate and meaningful.

During the session, create a calm and respectful space where each child can talk about their special object if they feel comfortable. You might use prompts like, "Why is this special to you?" or "Who gave it to you?" to help guide their sharing.

Space

Be Present (Embrace)

Show your pupils the slides with images of different hair types, inviting them to explore the key questions:

- What do you see?
- What do you notice?
- Is anything surprising?
- What do you think?

In the event of negative comments being made about the images shown:

- Immediate response: Address negative comments promptly to show they are unacceptable.
- Stay calm: Respond with a calm, neutral tone to avoid making the child feel shame.
- Ask questions: Understand why the child made the comment. For example, "Why did you say that?" or "Where did you hear that?"
- Correct misconceptions: Provide positive and accurate information about Black people. For instance, "Everyone's skin colour is beautiful."
- Promote empathy: Encourage children to consider others' feelings. Use stories or examples to illustrate kindness and respect.
- Use inclusive resources: Include books, toys, and activities that represent diverse cultures.



Read the book Hair Love to your class.

Highlight the fact that the main character needed her hair to be 'beautiful' to complete her outfit/make her ready for her big day.

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Suggested question for discussion:

How do we show our love and appreciation for what is different?

For example,

- saying kind words,
- not touching people's hair,
- safe touch, asking,
- respecting personal space.



Continuous Provision Activities

Option 1:

Hairdressers

Give each child a template of a head and a selection of colourful yarn. To further embed the themes threaded through Hair Love, children are encouraged to explore and use yarn to create their favourite hairstyles.

Celebrate the children's creativity during this activity.

Option 2:

Small world texture explorers

Children explore familiar animals (toys or pictures) and discuss differences in the texture of their fur/skin/hair.

Key questions:

- How is this animal's skin/fur different from this one?
- Why is their fur important how does it help this animal in their natural habitat?

Option 3:

Hair collage

As a class or small group, children are encouraged to use a variety of resources from both inside and outside the classroom to create a hair collage. This activity further explores differences in hair colour textures and allows for children to come together to create something beautifully unique.

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Sanctuary

Reimagine (Power)



Bible passage

"For we are God's masterpiece."

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

This verse teaches children that they are special to God, just like the things that are important to them. It encourages them to treat themselves, others, and their special things with love and care because they are all made by God.





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You may want to read this reflection aloud to your pupils.

Isn't it great how everyone is different? Some of us have curly hair, some straight, and we all like different things. It is like a garden with many colourful flowers, making our world more beautiful.

Think about your favourite storybook. The different characters make it exciting! Our differences make life fun, just like that.

Remember, being different is special. We each have unique gifts, and that is something to celebrate!



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for making each of us special and unique. We love that we are all different, just like the many colours in a beautiful garden.

Help us to appreciate and love our friends for who they are. Teach us to be kind and celebrate our differences, knowing that you made us all perfect in your eyes.

Amen.



End of session 4