

Inclusiveness and Acceptance

"There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28

Opening Prayer

Check-In (Share an important or interesting thing from this past week.)

Exploring Inclusiveness and Acceptance

Complete this sentence: "Accepting other people is sometimes hard because..."

"The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." **1 Samuel 16:7** (Have you ever been judged by your appearance? Have you ever judged others by their appearance? Discuss your experience.)

"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ...But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit." **1 Corinthians 12:12-13** (We are all one body. How comfortable are you in living with people who are not like you? Tell a story about getting to know someone who was quite different. What helps remind you that we are all "...one body by one Spirit...?")

From the **Book of Common Prayer**: "...all people are worthy of respect and honor, because all are created in the image of God, and all can respond to the love of God." **p. 846 Catechism** (Why does this seem so difficult in practice? Are there some people who are beyond the call to show respect?)

"Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life." **Revelation 22:17** (How can SMM and I as an individual member be more welcoming to the thirsty?)

"Respect everyone, and love the family of believers." **1 Peter 2:17** (How do we know when we are doing a good job of following this direction? Should we love those who are not our "...family of believers?" What in particular should we be doing at SMM to extend respect to everyone?)

Closing Observations

Closing Prayer

All Bible quotes are from the New Living Translation.