

Standing Together in Unity

Look at this image, what does it make you think of.....?

Do you notice anything about the hands.....?



People can be different in many ways.....but the Bible teaches that Jesus joins all people together.

In fact, most religions have a message of unity at their heart.



Sometimes people let their differences divide them. Sometimes people even spread division on purpose because they think that their particular difference makes them 'better'.

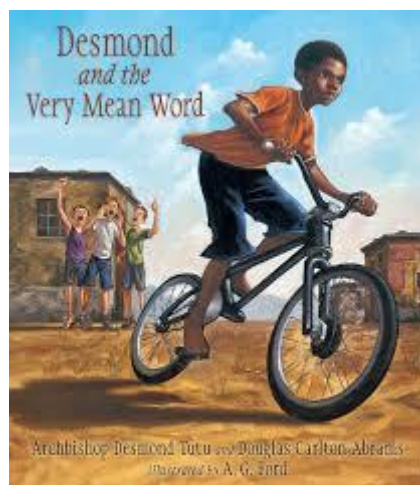


Archbishop Desmond Tutu is a very wise church leader who was treated unfairly because of the colour of his skin when he was a child. He went on to spend the whole of his life trying to tell people that they needed to come together in unity.

He wrote a picture book about his Childhood experience called 'Desmond and the Very Mean Word'.

You should try to read this book for yourself but if you don't have a copy, you can watch it being read on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvi8tIQ3aDs&t=2s>



Here is a picture of Archbishop Tutu giving a copy of his book to baby Archie when Prince Harry and Meghan went to visit him:



Here is a famous quote from Archbishop Tutu:



You might like to reflect on these words and think about times when unkind things have been said to try to push people apart. You may have heard stories in the news about terrible divisions and seen angry people shouting at each other.

Could you be brave enough to stand against division and spread unity?

Hands as signs of unity

We often talk about 'reaching out to someone'.

An open hand held out is an invitation to join together in unity.

Why not try making a 'heart in hand card' following The instructions below. You write a message of unity in it and give it to someone.



How to make a hand heart card

You will need:

- A sheet of plain A4 paper
- Pencil
- Two sheets of paper in different colours
- Scissors
- Felt tip pens
- Glue stick

Instructions

1. The first thing to do is use your pencil to draw carefully around your hand on your sheet of plain paper and cut it out.



2. Next take one of your sheets of coloured paper and fold it carefully in half.



3. Now get your hand you cut out earlier. Place it on the paper with the thumb and index finger just a little way over the creased side of the paper then draw around it.



4. Cut around the outline of your hand on the coloured paper like this:



5. When you open your coloured piece of paper up, you should end up with something like this. If yours doesn't work out quite as well as the picture below, try to think of how you could adjust it slightly and have another go (if you have spare paper).



- Put your piece of different coloured paper behind your hand-heart outline and draw all around the outside of it. Then you can stick the two different coloured pieces together like in the picture below.



- Use your felt tip pens to write a message of unity inside. Here are some suggestions:

Unity is strength, division is weakness.

Swahili Proverb

United we stand, divided we fall.

Aesop

There is beauty and power in unity. We must be united in heart and mind. One world, one people.

Lailah Gifty Akita

All for one, and one for all.

Alexandre Dumas

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

Helen Keller