

TO BE DIFFERENT

Our Heavenly Father gave people different gifts and talents. He even made them look differently from one another. The Lord Jesus taught us to love others as we love ourselves. That is not always easy, especially since we are all different. The children learn best from examples. We can teach them through stories and by talking about it.

The children need to appreciate their neighbors and themselves in their own way.

► **Red hair** (looking different)

Preliminary remarks: The story can also be told using different peculiarities like skin color, speech, handicaps, etc.

The children in the neighborhood play soccer. Only Benjamin is standing sadly on the sidelines, because the others do not want him to play along. His full curly red hair is the reason why they often exclude him. Longingly, he watches how they chase after the ball. After a great kick, the ball disappears onto a balcony. The children deliberate. Why did it have to land on that balcony. Mr. Glaser, who lives there, often scolds them. He is annoyed because they play soccer there. No one dares to go and ask him to return the ball. Now Benjamin spontaneously offers to go. He wants to get the ball. All the other children are amazed at how courageous Benjamin is. While he rings the door bell at Mr. Glaser's house, they decide to let Benjamin play with them from now on.

► The story will be told vividly. After the first paragraph, the children can speculate how the story may continue.





The children contrast their distinctive appearances: height, color of hair, size of shoes, etc. We point out how nice it is, that everyone is somewhat special. The children learn a verse or song fitting to this topic.

Example: "We all are children created by our Heavenly Father. Her hair is black and his is red. You are tall and I am small, that is the way we ought to be."



Together we look for something special about each child, something they can be proud of. The children draw a picture of themselves and try to portray their individual special feature.



I. 10

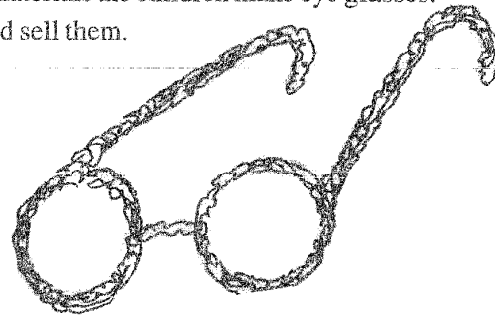
▶ **The eye glasses** (to look different and stand up to it)

Martin's mother notices that her son does not see well. The eye doctor confirms her suspicion. Although Martin does not want to hear anything about eye glasses, he has to accept the necessity to wear them. At the kindergarten he notices with relief that his friends do not laugh at him because of it. He even notices that the eye glasses help him to see better now. After a while he does not even want to be without them.

▶ The children try to look at an unfamiliar picture by squinting their eyes. We talk about what we notice.

▶ The children check the number of those amongst their friends and family who wear eye glasses. If permitted, they are to look through some of them.

▶ Using cardboard, pipe cleaner or other materials the children make eye glasses. By role playing they can select some and sell them.



► **Different gifts and talents**

Every morning the robin sits on its favourite tree and sings beautifully. Not far away lives a crow in the highest tree top. Its croaking angers the robin. The robin's nice singing is constantly interrupted and overpowered. One day, while the robin sings beautifully, a cat sneaks closer and closer. The robin does not notice the dangerous aggressor and happily keeps singing. Suddenly the crow croaks even louder. The crow flutters about excitedly. Angrily the robin looks around and notices the cat that is lurking beneath, ready to jump. In the last minute, the robin makes it to safety. How thankful the robin is now to the crow. The crow's noise saved the robin's life.

► During the telling of the story, the teacher can show how to make movements and voices of the animals. The children can participate.

VI. 11 ► The story can be played out by using a flannel board.

► During role play, the story is repeated and is grasped more profoundly. A chair can be used as the tree.

► We make up a "Robin Song."

Example: "I'm so glad, I'm so glad. Dear crow, keep croaking on."

VIII. 6 ► With paper and material from nature, the children make birds.

