

Same, same but different...

John 17: 1-11: Verse 11: And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

"There's a big difference between oneness and sameness. Sameness implies that we all have to do things and think exactly the same way as everybody else does. Oneness implies that we're all connected and that we all come from the same source." Wayne W. Dyer

As Jesus was about to leave this world physically, he prayed to God to look after his disciples, who were going to miss him and need special help when he was no longer around to guide them. Jesus asked God to help them "be one" as God and Jesus were "one". But what does it mean to be "one"? Sometimes we say "as one," or "of like mind." Does that mean we all have to be the same, or think the same?

If you think about it, and look at each of us, we certainly aren't all the same. We all look different from each other, we all have our own personalities, likes and dislikes, talents and abilities. So how can we all be the same?

God doesn't expect us to all be exactly the same. But God does want us recognise that we are all connected, we are all part of the same human race, we are all dependent on each other for our well-being. So it follows that we need to be able to work together and be like-minded about the important things: Love one another, be kind and generous and merciful, be humble not proud, be God's presence in the world in whatever way we can, each according to our own abilities and resources. We'll each do this in our own way, but we will be 'one' or united in our quest to be part of God's family and follow God's commandments.

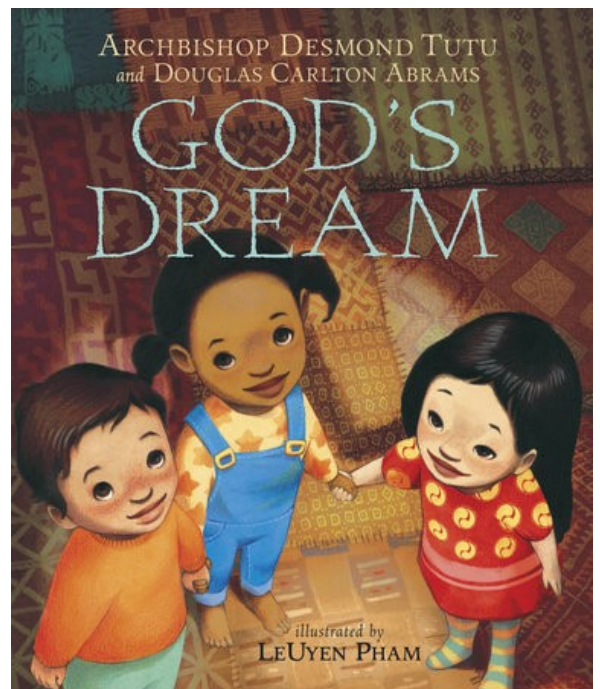
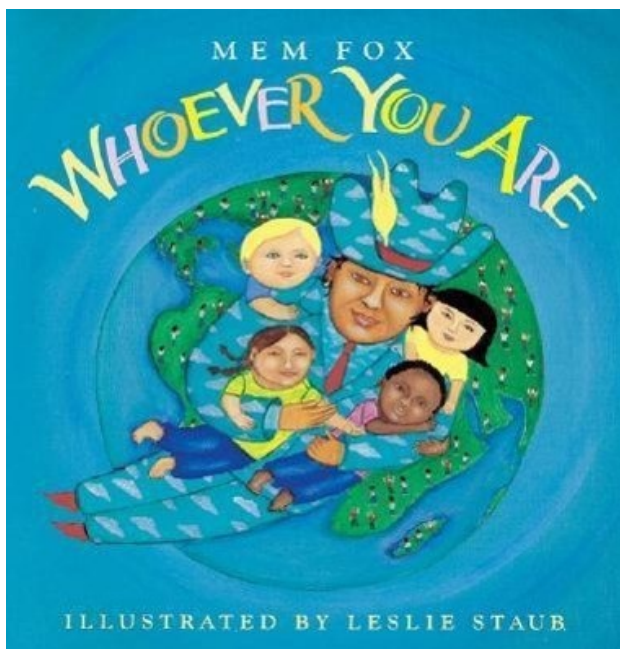
Two books for children on this theme are Desmond Tutu's "God's Dream", published by Penguin/Random House <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/181250/gods-dream-by-archbishop-desmond-tutu/>

See it read aloud on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pz_1lCIygn4

The book is also available from MediaCom Education, Booktopia or Fishpond.

And Mem Fox's "Whoever you are" (available from most good booksellers). On YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0J6tKoT53Y>



For colouring page, crossword and other activities for this reading see sermons4kids:

<https://sermons4kids.com/that-all-may-be-one.html>

Same, same but different... Craft Activity

You will need:

A paper plate, string or wool of different colours, catalogues and magazines, cardboard (from cereal or biscuit boxes), scissors, glue sticks, sticky tape or hole punch

Optional: glitter, stars or stickers

What to do:

You can make this into a simple mobile with just the different lengths and different colours of wool representing different people, or make a mobile with pictures of people. The strings knotted together represent our connectedness, and that we all come from the one source.

- Cut small slits around the edge of the paper plate.
- Cut lengths of wool of different colours and different lengths. Cut enough to fit one in each slot that you have made in the edge of the plate.
- Fit the wool into the slots and pull them through to the top of the plate so they meet in the middle of the plate. Tie them together in a knot. Adjust the lengths of wool if necessary to keep the knot in the centre of the plate.
- Tie the knot using the extra length to make a loop, or tie an extra length of wool through the knotted wool to make a loop to hang the mobile with.
- **Mobile:** Cut pictures of a variety of people, of different ages, gender, ethnicity, occupations, etc., from catalogues and magazines.
- Glue them onto cardboard for extra stability and weight, cut off excess cardboard.
- Attach one person to each length of wool, either with sticky tape or punch a hole on the top of the person and thread the wool through the hole and tie it on. *Alternative:* When you glue the picture to the cardboard insert the end of the length of wool between the paper and the cardboard and hang it that way.
- *To finish:* spread glue over the top of the plate and add glitter, stars or stickers to decorate the mobile.

