A GUIDE TO DISCUSSING DIVERSITY WITH YOUR KIDS for Preschool, Elementary and Youth Parents
It is so important that our kids understand how to be able to see people the way that God does. God’s family is wonderfully unique, and God designed it to be that way. Every single human being is made in God’s image and is made on purpose with God-given abilities and talents. When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we have not just a choice but a divine responsibility to treat all people just as God does – with dignity, compassion, acceptance, mercy, and love. There is no room for discrimination or prejudice in God’s family. As we work to raise children who know God and his word, we simply cannot miss teaching them this essential Kingdom principle regarding the sanctity and value of each human life. We are all equal in God’s eyes. Let’s choose to be a people who raise children that see others the way our Heavenly Father sees them. Imagine if the world could be a more Christ-like place not because of what you do, but because of who you raise. We can do it, one lesson and one child at a time. Raising children who stand up for what is right in God’s eyes is no accident. It is an intentional process that begins at home.

We are in this together!

The cKids Team
What does God’s word say about how his people should treat others?
Read these verses out loud with your kids.

• “Speak up for those who can’t speak for themselves. Speak up for the rights of all those who are poor. Speak up and judge fairly. Speak up for the rights of those who are poor and needy.” Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIrV)

• “The LORD says, “Do what is fair and right. Save those who have been robbed. Set them free from the people who have treated them badly. Do not do anything wrong to outsiders or widows in this place. Do not harm children whose fathers have died. Do not kill those who are not guilty of doing anything wrong.” Jeremiah 22:3 (NIrV)

• “He stands up for those who are treated badly. He gives food to hungry people. The LORD sets prisoners free. The LORD gives sight to those who are blind. The LORD lifts up those who feel helpless. The LORD loves those who do what is right. The LORD watches over the outsiders who live in our land. He takes good care of children whose fathers have died. He also takes good care of widows. But he causes evil people to fail in everything they do.” Psalm 146:7-9 (NIrV)

• “The LORD has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.” Micah 6:8 (NIrV)

• “Then Peter began to speak. “I now realize how true it is that God treats everyone the same,” he said. “He accepts people from every nation. He accepts anyone who has respect for him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel. It is the good news of peace through Jesus Christ. He is Lord of all.” Acts 10:34-36 (NIrV)
As God’s people, we should always:

• Speak up for those who can’t speak for themselves. This means we should help others and never hurt anyone. If we see someone being mistreated, we should work to stop it and help the person in need.

• Do what is fair and right. This means that we should always make choices that help people. We should never hurt anyone so that we can look better or get ahead. The Lord loves those who do what is right.

• Help those in need. This means we should give our time and resources (like our money and our things) to help those who don’t have as much as us to get ahead. God gave everything to us when he gave us his son Jesus. In this same way, we should have a heart that gives to others.

• Act with justice and show love and mercy. This means that we see all people the way that God does – with compassion, mercy, acceptance, and love. We look at all people the same way and realize that every human is special and created in God’s image.

• Accept all kinds of people. This means that we realize that nobody is more important than another person. God loves everyone and doesn’t care what people look like, and this is how we should see others.
Discussion Questions:

Parents, ask these questions to your kids; the goal is to have a meaningful conversation about diversity and acceptance in God’s family. Your answers don’t have to be perfect. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you as you teach your children these invaluable lessons, and use the Scripture references above as a guide.

1. Parents, share some examples with your kids of when Jesus helped you to see others differently, the way that he does.

2. Have your kids talk about a time when they stood up for someone who was being mistreated or have them talk about a time when they saw someone being mistreated. How did it make them feel? (Use this as an opportunity to explain that all people are created equal, and everyone is so important to God! We have to treat everyone with love because that is what God wants, and that is how God treats us.)

3. Do you believe that God treats everyone the same? (The answer is yes, he sure does!)

4. If God accepts all different kinds of people, should we also accept all people? (Yes, we should! We want to be like God in all that we do.)

5. What does it mean to accept all different kinds of people? (It means that we see people as equal and we treat everyone the same, no matter what they look like, what they believe or where they come from. We believe that all people play an important part in God’s family!)

6. What can we do now to show God that we love him and treat all of his people the same way?

Some examples include:
• We can play with a little boy or girl who may not have a lot of friends.
• We can become friends with people who may look different than us.
• We can give away something that we like to someone who may not have as much as we do.
• If we see someone being mistreated, we can help them and stand with them so that they are not mistreated anymore.
• We can pray for others and ourselves. We can ask God to soften our hearts and help us always to see people the way that he does.