

Jelly Bean Bigots

The topic Racism

The object Jelly beans in assorted flavors.

The lesson Put out *lots* of jelly beans, of *lots* of flavors—then let your kids at 'em. After a couple minutes take an informal voice poll of favorite flavors. You'll probably hear comments like "I hate the banana jelly beans—they stink"... "No way, I love the banana ones. They rock!" If flavor loyalties run deep in your group, you might want to make the poll "official" by tabulating the results on a white board.

It won't take long for everyone to see just how subjective taste is. What one person thinks is delicious is another's loathing. Just because one person or a nation of persons likes (or dislikes) or appreciates (or depreciates) something, doesn't make that something good or bad, superior or inferior.

Racism is an attitude that says, "Red [or white or brown or



black or yellow or chartreuse] is best because I say so." Scripture tells us simply to love our neighbors, regardless of their color, because in Christ all of us are equal. Besides, if we let it, such a various mix of people makes life more interesting—and the kingdom of God more effective.

The Word Galatians 3:26-28

Discussion starters

1. Who are the outcast groups in your school?
2. How can you reach out to them so they know they are valuable to God?
3. **Why do people decide that one race/flavor is superior to others?**
4. What about people (who are made in the image of God) who have made decisions that violate God's image in us? How do we show acceptance of *who* they are without showing approval of *what* they do?

Life changers

1. Granted, it's a little too easy to talk in generalities about reaching out to people unlike us. So can you identify just one or two individuals with whom you can actually begin building a relationship?
2. Anyone you need to apologize to for something you said because they are different from you?

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