

Create



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.

Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.

Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Breath of God

Ask someone to read **Romans 14:1-12**. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: Paul encourages us to not spend our time in judgment of our brothers and sisters who make different moral decisions, but to live by the belief that love for people and value of people transcends any differences we may have. How do we find ways to exist in our church families with people who make different behavioral and even moral decisions than we make?

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing**, **Visual**, or **Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✔ Create — Writing

Recall and journal about a time when you and a close friend genuinely disagreed about something having to do with your faith or spirituality or even morals. Is it difficult for you to understand why people don't see things as you see them? Why or why not? If someone doesn't have the same moral/ethical beliefs as you, is it then difficult to remain friends? Why or why not? Do you think God wants us to "call people out" about certain things or always remain "non-judgmental"? Why? As you answer these questions, re-read the scripture text for today.

✔ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Create a collage from magazine clippings depicting "tolerance of diversity." Paul encourages us to overlook people's differences to worship together and commune together. Make sure to include yourself or

some image that represents you in this collage.

When you are finished, give your piece of art a title.

Create a piece of art titled, "God accepts them..." (taken from Romans 14:3b) Write a description of your art to attach to the back.

✔ Create — Outside the Box

Make a list of things you feel strongly about. For example, how do you feel about pre-marital sex, drinking alcohol under 21/over 21, tattoos, kissing while dating, interracial marriage, adoption, homosexuality, creation care/recycling, divorce, abuse, partying, world religions, the violence of the cross, the existence of evil, cancer, adultery, etc. After you have listed a number of topics, write beside each topic someone who might disagree with you and why they might disagree. Then, try to search the Bible for verses or stories that pertain to the topics you have listed. If the Bible seems silent on an issue you are particularly interested in learning about, ask a minister about it.

✔ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

✔ Close

Offer a prayer thanking God for allowing people to be unique and different. Ask God to help you be more tolerant of those who think things or do things a little differently than you.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place).

by Carra Hughes Greer