



THEME OF THE MONTH

Acceptance

***Welcoming Others Without Preconditions or Prejudice
(Acceptance vs. Rejection)***

1. Favorable reception, approval, or favor
2. Act of taking or receiving something offered
3. To receive or admit into your circle
4. To agree or consent to

Why is Acceptance Important?

“A wise child accepts a parent’s discipline, a mocker refuses to listen.”

Proverbs 10:17 NLT

“When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild...”

Proverbs 29:18 NLT

“Accept each other, just as Christ has accepted you...”

Romans 15:7 NLT

“You accepted what we said as the very word of God...”

I Thessalonians 2:13 NLT

How Do We Practice Acceptance?

1. We acknowledge everyone is a unique creation of God.
2. We graciously accept the generosity of others.
3. We refuse to close our circle of friends and avoid cliques.
4. We do not reject others because of race, creed or gender.
5. We acknowledge that no one is perfect, including ourselves.



MAT CHAT TALKING POINTS

1. Have you ever experienced rejection? How did it make you feel?
2. How does acceptance of others improve someone's self-esteem?
3. Does acceptance of a person mean that you have to accept behaviors or habits they may engage in that you don't approve of? Why or why not?
4. How should we accept a kindness shown to us? Explain.
5. What is a clique and why are they problematic?
6. Why is discrimination a bad thing? How do we combat it?
7. If we are all imperfect, how do we accept someone who may do something that really bothers or embarrasses you?
8. Why is it important to accept a moral standard of rules for right living?

Talking Points:

Look Beyond Appearances: Everyone is unique, and no two people are the same. Acceptance looks beyond a person's appearance and acknowledges the true worth of a person is what is on the inside.

Examine Yourself: Prejudices and discriminatory behaviors can creep into our lives through a number of ways. A regular self-evaluation of the way we treat others, especially those of a different creed, color or sex, is important.

Allow for Differences: Not everyone will do everything to your liking. Acceptance of the person looks beyond minor flaws on a person's behaviors or habits, and we must understand that we are all a "work in progress" and have room for improvement.

Uphold Your Standard: Acceptance of a person does not mean that you must accept the habits or behaviors they engage in that violate your own moral code of conduct. It is okay to uphold a high moral standard of personal conduct, and allow this to serve as an example for others to learn from. It's okay to "agree to disagree".