

## CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITIES

# CELEBRATING ALL RELIGIONS

### TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS

Social and emotional learning (SEL) helps children manage emotions, learn how to feel empathy, create and achieve goals, and make good decisions. Strong lessons and support in SEL will help children establish positive habits in communication, cooperation, and decision-making. By incorporating SEL in early reading, children will learn the importance of accepting and celebrating all people in their communities.

#### BEFORE READING

Talk to the reader about religion. Explain that religion has to do with beliefs. Explain that the world is full of many different religious beliefs.

**Discuss:** Do you practice a religion? Can you explain what your religion believes? Can you name any other religions?

#### AFTER READING

Talk to the reader about ways he or she can celebrate or respect different religions.

**Discuss:** What is one way you can respect another person's religious beliefs? Why is it good for a community to respect all beliefs?

#### SEL GOAL

Children may have heard to not make fun of or exclude others for being different, but they may not understand why. Talk to readers about the importance of empathy in accepting and celebrating the differences of others. Have they ever felt singled out for having different beliefs? What did it feel like? If they haven't experienced this, ask them to imagine what it feels like. Make a list of these different feelings. Then ask readers to list the feelings they have when they are included and accepted. Explain that our communities are better when everyone is accepted and included.

### GOALS AND TOOLS

#### GROW WITH GOALS

Accepting all people, no matter their religion or beliefs, is important. Understanding people's beliefs and getting to know them outside of their beliefs will help you accept others.

**Goal:** Learn something new about a religion or someone's beliefs. Are any of their beliefs similar to yours? Which beliefs are different? How do you feel about it?

**Goal:** What is one way you can be more accepting of others' religious beliefs? How can you try to do this more often?

**Goal:** Get to know someone new. Try to find one thing you have in common or that you both like.

#### WRITING REFLECTION

Understanding your own beliefs can help you understand and accept those around you.

1. What are your beliefs?
2. What is one thing about another religion or someone else's beliefs you want to learn more about?
3. What is one thing you can do to be more accepting of others' beliefs?



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BOOKS**

published by: **jump!**