

THE WORLD IS OUR FAMILY

United Nations Day—October 24



**FAMILY
NIGHT**

49



OPENING

Invite the family around the kitchen table or other gathering place. Place the globe and a candle prominently on the table in the midst of the letters and articles mentioned in "You will need" Light the candle and sing "It's a Small World" as you pass the globe around the table.



PRESENTATION OF THEME

Sometimes we become so wrapped up in what we are doing and in our own problems that we forget we are part of a global family with brothers and sisters of all races, religions, and nationalities. Tonight we're going to remember that we are part of the biggest family ever, the human family, sharing one big home, the earth.

Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26 *or*
Garrison quotation *or*
People



FAMILY RESPONSE

Choose to do one or more of the following activities.

1. Pen Pals

Read together the letters or magazine articles you've collected about life in another country. Discuss the similarities and differences in lifestyle and values between us and our brothers and sisters in that country. Write down questions about daily life in these countries that you can't answer. Then assign each family member to write to a pen pal, missionary, or another person living in that country. In your letters you may ask the true experts the questions that arose in the family night.

2. A Collage

Make a collage with the faces of people from all over the world. Give it a title, such as "We Are One Global Family" or "We Are the World." Hang it in a prominent place at home or in your place of worship.



YOU WILL NEED ...

- globe or map of the world
- magazine articles, newsletters, or videos on everyday life in a developing country (*National Geographic* is a good resource.)
- People*, Peter Spier, Doubleday, 1988, optional

Option 1: Pen Pals

- writing paper, pens, envelopes, stamps
- letters from friends or missionaries living overseas (If none of these are available, contact your local library or an international association for pen pal names, or join a "twinning" project like Project MADRE, 853 Broadway, Room 301, New York, NY 10003, a project that pairs young children in the U.S. with children in Nicaragua.)

Option 2: A Collage

- poster board or large paper
- picture magazines that treat global issues (*Maryknoll Magazine*, a weekly news magazine, or *National Geographic*)
- crayons, markers, scissors, glue

Option 3: Friends from Another Country

- invitation to friends or acquaintances from another country



READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. . . . If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

My country is the world. My countrymen are all humankind.

—William Lloyd Garrison

RELATED
READING

A Country Far Away by Nigel Gray. Orchard Books, 1991.

Educating for Peace and Justice, Vol. III (Religious Dimensions) by James McGinnis et al. Institute for Peace and Justice, 1993.

Young Peacemakers Project Book by Kathleen M. Fry-Miller and Judith A. Myers-Walls. Brethren Press, 1988.

—Ann Marie Witchger Hansen

**3. Friends from Another Country**

Invite friends or acquaintances from another country for dinner or an evening snack. Ask them to bring along a map, pictures, artifacts, musical instruments, or books from their country. Also ask them to share a folktale, poem, song, dance, or stories about daily life in their country, particularly about the children, their play, school, and other activities.

Close by singing “Under One Sky” (Appendix A, Music).



TREAT

Mix up and serve Chex cereal party mix or some other variety.