

## Discussion Questions for “We All Belong” song and video

“We All Belong” is a song about the importance of belonging, especially of those who are different. People affected by disability have sometimes felt that, because of their differences, they were excluded from faith communities and do not fit in or belong in their church or other community groups.

Teachers can explore the themes of this video and use the following questions to guide discussion.

The 5-minute video can be downloaded for free

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSB9jdB1Vfc&ab\\_channel=FaithInclusionNetworkofHamptonRoads](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSB9jdB1Vfc&ab_channel=FaithInclusionNetworkofHamptonRoads)

Special Note: The composer of this song is a member of Blessed Sacrament, Karen Jackson. Her daughter, Samantha has autism and you will see a photo of Samantha sitting in the front hall outside of the main office of Blessed Sacrament in this video.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Some of the people in this video have disabilities. What is a disability? Do you know someone affected by disability?

Notes for teachers:

- Merriam-Webster definition of disability: A physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental condition that impairs, interferes with, or limits a person's ability to engage in certain tasks or actions or participate in typical daily activities and interactions.
- Most young children will have a difficult time understanding the definition above. Start with explaining a physical disability, (person who uses a wheelchair, who is blind or deaf).
- A cognitive disability can be explained as a person who might have difficulty talking or being able to have a conversation with you.
- Some students may be able to name some disabilities: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome. Encourage students to share if they have a family member or friend affected by a disability.

2. Sometimes people with disabilities are excluded or feel left out. Have you ever felt left out of a group? Maybe you weren't invited to a party, or not asked to join a game. How did that make you feel?

Notes for Teachers:

- The goal of this question is to help students understand that we all have felt left out at some point and to develop a sense of compassion.
- It is important not to dwell on feelings of "pity". Disability is not to be considered so terrible, just a difference.

3. If you see someone who is different because of a disability, what could you do to help them feel included?

Especially for older students (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

4. The imagery in this video includes birds flying. What do you think that signifies?

Notes for Teachers:

- Birds in flight often represent freedom. The imagery is intended to invoke feelings of freedom and strength that come from being accepted as you are.
- Older students may be able to explore how the imagery makes them feel and how it may pertain to inclusion and belonging.

5. The refrain of this song and main theme is about community and unity.

"I belong, you belong, we all belong 'cause we're made for community  
I belong, you belong, we all belong, let's pray for unity"

Notes for Teachers:

- Explore the idea of community. You are all part of our church/synagogue/mosque community. What other communities are you a part of?
- How can we ensure that everyone feels welcome to be a part of our communities? What unites us? What does it mean to pray for unity?