

## **Church is like a Box of Crayons**

props: a box of crayons some of them well used and some unused and a large sheet of newsprint.

Did you ever think that a box of crayons can represent our church? [Open the box of crayons. As you speak, draw on newsprint different lines or shapes or spell out the word compassion in different colors or different styles of lettering. You don't need to be an artist to do this; just don't make things too complicated or you might have the children draw a line or a letter]. The crayons are different colors, just like there are different colors of people. These crayons draw different looking lines, but they can create similar shapes. Some of the crayons are almost new. Like people who have recently become Christians and have a sharply defined faith, they draw with a thin line.

Other crayons in this box are already worn down and the lines that they draw are broad strokes. Sometimes, people who have been part of the church for a long time have a strong faith. God uses them to make bold lines.

Each crayon can only draw one color, but when lines are drawn close together, a kind of rainbow appears. When several crayons are combined into one picture the browns and the yellows, the thins new ones and the wide old ones the picture is both more complete and more beautiful.

In our congregation, we are celebrating One Great Hour of Sharing. This is an offering that Christians all around the country take each year to help people in need. One of the themes that we are using this year is color the world with compassion. By working together, Christians who are different demonstrate the unity that God intended. This way, we can create a more complete and beautiful expression of how God's love can be shared.