

# Children's Moment: "A Lesson From My Kitchen Drawer"

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*Leader Preparation: Collect every kind of spoon that you can find.*

*The key is not quantity but variety, each a "one of a kind."*

*Bring them to worship in a bag.*

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Can you guess what's in my bag today? [Rattle the bag's contents and talk over their guesses]

Who will put their hand in my bag and bring out just one thing? [Talk about what your volunteer has produced from the bag]

You bet, it *is* a spoon! [Say something about why that particular spoon is in your 'spoon collection.' Maybe it is a favorite cooking spoon or given to you by someone in your family or talk about its function... ice cream scoop, soup ladle, measuring spoon, etc.]

Who else wants to bring something out of my bag? [Repeat identification conversation]

Well, let's see *everything* that I brought today! [Empty the bag with a flourish]

Spoons! Lots of spoons! Nothing here but spoons! And I can tell you something about each one of them! [Choose several and say something about why they are special for you or their special function]

Now all these spoons... Every one of them is different from the others, but they are all the same thing, spoons! I think that in God's eyes *we* might be a lot like my bag of spoons. Each one of us *is* different and unique. Each one of us is special and we each have our own story. Each one of us is not exactly like anybody else, anywhere, anytime.

*People* can be different too. Not like most everybody else. Not strange but not the same either. Let's see; do any of you wear glasses? Lots of us wear glasses so that we can see better. Are there people who can't see, even with glasses? You bet. Sometimes they are called 'blind' or sometimes 'visually disabled.' Do you know what 'disabled means?' [Talk over what that word means for the children and for all of us]

I know some folks who can't walk anymore? Sometimes they use what are called 'wheel chairs' to move around? Do you know any one who has trouble walking? [Relate their experiences to 'disability']

I know some folks also who don't hear quite the way most of us do. And I know some people who really have a lot of trouble 'paying attention.' Do you? [Relate their experiences to 'disability']

Spoons do something for us, don't they? And every different kind of spoon has something that it does best. Different *people* also have things that are special to them. And persons with disabilities *also can do* things that might be different from some of us, but *are* also special and a difference for all of us.

So just like those spoons from my kitchen drawer...some *people* are very much the same and others are very different from most of us. But we know that in God's way, we are *all the same*. We are all the same because we are *all* God's own children — loved by God, and cared for by God, and listened to by God.

Each one of my spoons, however different, is really the same; spoons!  
Each of us is special, not the same as everyone else, but really the same in being Loved By God.  
Wow!

~ Bruce E. Tjaden