Celebrate with a Sensitive Heart!

By Karen Strader, preschool/children’s consultant, Sunday School Department

Have you thought about how you will help all the children in your church celebrate Mother’s Day and Father’s Day this year?

In today’s society, children grow up in many different types of families. Some children live with grandparents or other extended family. Some children are growing up in homes with a single mom or dad. And of course, some children live in foster homes and may move from house to house.

The church needs to remember these children during the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. So often the church will have children make cards for their mother’s on Mother’s Day. What about those children who don’t have a mother? “Doughnuts With Dad” is a tradition some churches have on Father’s Day. What about those children who have never seen their dad?

Celebrate the family together with a sensitive heart! Let children celebrate the families they have. Help the children to understand that God gave them a unique and special family.

Here are few ideas churches can take to be sensitive to children during the upcoming celebrations of Mother’s Day & Father’s Day;

 accrued Make sure that during prayer time you thank God for families, not just moms or dads. This is a small detail that will make a big difference!
 accrued As a preschool or children’s teacher make sure and do your homework before these holidays are here. Find out the family situations of the children in your class. Be sensitive to children from unique family situations.
 accrued Let the child decide whom to make cards or crafts for. Don’t make the children make a Mother’s Day card. The children could make a card or craft for a grandmother, aunt, etc. I know of someone who made his father a Mother’s Day card each year. To this person, Daddy was both mom and dad.
 accrued If your church has a special program such as a “Mother/Daughter Banquet” think about changing the name to something such as a “Wonderful Women Banquet.” Children could invite a special woman in their lives such as a teacher or neighbor.
 accrued Pray. A sensitive heart comes from praying for the children in your life. Pray to be sensitive to the needs of children on these special days. I will never forget one Father’s Day a child telling me he couldn’t thank God for his father because his father was in heaven. This little boy’s father had died and Fathers’ Day was not a celebration at his house. I helped this particular boy think of some other men in his life who he could thank God for, such as his grandfather.

Questions? Contact the Sunday School Department at (502) 254-4780 or call toll free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5710 or the Discipleship Training/Stewardship Department at (502) 254-4716 or toll free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5708.