



*Helping Students Make Wiser Choices Since 1992*

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Monthly Theme: August through May  
Elementary Level Series 1

### **February: We're Different and Alike**

Daily broadcast message pages Special 20, Special 21, Special 22, 7, 13, 18, 36, 38, 40, 45, 64, 66, 69, 81, 96, 129, 139, 143, 144, 158, and 160. \*

\*As much as possible, narrate the messages in order listed for the best flow of ideas.  
We have provided more messages than necessary for a typical month  
so you can choose those messages best suited for your campus.

#### **Also available for Educator Resource Site (ERS) 2.0 Subscribers**

"Winning Hearts", "Advantages of Being Bilingual", "Wisdom of the Ages", and "Tough Choices"

These ERS lesson plans and additional broadcast messages correspond to this monthly theme.



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Diversity

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

In February, we set aside a special time to talk about Black History Month. It gives us a chance to celebrate African-American culture and honor those who have made our country and our world a better place. And, when we learn more about each other, we find that we have many things in common. Together, we all make America strong.

Famous African-American poet Maya Angelou once wrote something like this:

***When we sew a beautiful cloth with different colors of thread, each thread is important no matter what color it is.\****

The same is true with people. We can all join together to create a better future for America. Each of us brings something important to our country, just like each thread in the beautiful cloth.

Take some time this month to learn more about some of the African-American heroes that have helped to make our country great.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

\*Original quote: "...diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color." ~ Maya Angelou

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# MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

## Tolerance

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

On (date), schools, businesses, and government offices across the nation will close in honor of a great American leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a young person, Dr. King was an excellent student who studied hard. He loved learning. His love for learning made him a great teacher and minister. He taught the world by way of his example. He taught fairness, courage, and nonviolence. In honor of his birthday, let's remember his famous words, spoken at the historic March on Washington in 1963:

***I have a dream that one day in the red hills of Georgia  
the sons of former slaves and the sons of former  
slave owners will be able to sit down together at the  
table of brotherhood.***

The best way we can honor this great human being and the hard work he did for people everywhere is to respect one another. Today, be kind and respectful to one another.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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# VALENTINE'S DAY

## Love

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Valentine's Day is a big day, with bags full of valentines and maybe some candy hearts! But did you know that some young people think it's uncool to exchange valentines?

Well, guess what. It's never uncool to show love and affection toward others. After all, that's what Valentine's Day is all about, isn't it? So today, get into the spirit of things and show your teachers and classmates a little love and appreciation. A few kind words will do. A valentine note would be even better. Happy Valentine's Day!

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# BROTHERHOOD

## Nonviolence

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Anyone watch the news last night? There's a lot of violence in the world: violence in our communities, our schools, our homes.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said:

***We have flown the air like birds and swum the sea like fish,  
but we have yet to learn the simple act of walking the earth  
like brothers.***

The Chinese say it another way:

***All under Heaven: One Family.***

Today, as we work and study together — all under the same heaven and walking the same earth — think about this: We are all different, but we are all part of the same human family. Remember Dr. King's words and be good to yourself and others.

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# TOLERANCE

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Dr. Billy Graham is a preacher who has traveled the world meeting people from all nations and walks of life.

Dr. Graham says:

***There must be genuine love to replace prejudice and hate.***

Prejudice means being unfair to people because they are different from us. Dr. Graham is saying that we must learn to really care about one another instead of being unfair or hateful to one another. He is saying it's important to care for others no matter how different they are from us.

What do you think? If we learn to be kind and fair to each other, would the world be a better place?

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# DIVERSITY

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Did you know that there is not one single person in the whole wide world exactly like you? That's right! Even if you have a twin brother or sister, there is still no one exactly like you. Why? Because you have your own special feelings, your own special ideas, and your own special way of doing things. Everyone here at school is a one-of-a-kind human being. That makes everyone here special in his or her own way.

Today, write down five words that describe what's special about you. Then remember to . . .

***Tell others what's special about them.***

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# PREJUDGING

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Former President Harry Truman once said:

***I have fought all my life against prejudice.***

What does it mean to be prejudiced? Well, we've all heard the saying:

***You can't judge a book by its cover.***

When we prejudge someone, we make a decision about the kind of person he or she is without looking beyond the cover . . . the color of her skin or the kind of clothes she wears . . . without seeing what's on the inside.

Every single one of us has the right to be accepted and understood as a person, not because of the tennis shoes we wear or the size of our house or the place we worship.

Today, let's think about what Mr. Truman said and work toward seeing what is on the inside of people.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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# COMPASSION

## Tolerance

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Albert Einstein once said:

***Our task must be to widen our circle of compassion  
to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature  
in its beauty.***

In other words, he is saying that one of our jobs in life is to be kind and caring to each other, to all living creatures and to planet Earth.

As you move through the day today, notice that although we human creatures come in different colors, shapes, and sizes, we share a common bond with each other. We live on the same earth and under the same stars, and we all want to be treated with kindness. Today, focus on what we have in common while celebrating the differences that makes our country great!

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# DIVERSITY

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Today, I want you to imagine what it would be like if everyone in class were exactly the same, with the same hair and eyes, the same size and shape, the same voice, and the same laugh. What if everyone liked the same color and the same food and the same music? Wouldn't life be dull?

Remember this, students:

***It's good that we are all so different. It makes life more interesting.***

We can learn from our differences, and we can celebrate what makes each of us so special. Today, celebrate all our wonderful differences by seeing what's wonderful in others.

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# BROTHERHOOD

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

D. T. Suzuki was a great teacher who spent his whole life helping people of different religions understand one another.

He probably knew this ancient Zen saying:

***One moon shows in every pool;  
in every pool, the one moon.***

Think about that. Every night, all around the world, all different kinds of people look up at the same moon. Every pool of water on the earth, regardless of who looks into it, reflects the same moon.

Next time you look up into the night sky, think about all the other people standing in the same moonlight, and remember that more than seven billion human beings are sharing this one little planet with this same single moon above it.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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# BEING GIFTED

## Uniqueness

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Have you ever heard someone described as being "gifted"? . . . A gifted student? . . . A gifted pianist? . . . A gifted athlete? Well, guess what. We are all gifted in our own special way. We all carry within us a special gift we alone can give the world.

Marie Curie was a gifted scientist. Together with her husband, she made very important scientific discoveries. She was the first female ever to receive the Nobel Prize. Listen to what she says about being gifted:

***We must believe we are gifted for something.***

Today, remember you are gifted for something and inside you is a special gift only you can give the world — no one else — only you. What do you think your gift might be?

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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# UNIQUENESS

## Nonviolence

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Pablo Casals was a world-famous Spanish musician and writer. Now listen to these words he wrote in a piece titled "You Are a Marvel":

***. . . Do you know what you are? You are a marvel. You are unique. In all the years that have passed, there has never been another [young person] like you. Your legs, your arms, your clever fingers, the way you move. You may become a Shakespeare, a Michelangelo, a Beethoven. Yes, you are a marvel. And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is, like you, a marvel?***

Pablo Casals is saying that each one of you is filled with wonder. Each one of you is special. So how can you grow up and be hurtful to someone else who is a special, one-of-a-kind person, too?

Today, let's treat each other like the special, one-of-a-kind human beings we are, and always search for kind and peaceful ways to live together.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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# UNIQUENESS

## Originality

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

A famous Spanish writer, Juan Mascaró, once said:

***Each one of us is a unique event in the universe.***

Let's think about that. With more than seven billion people on the planet, there is no one else in the whole of the universe that is YOU except YOU. That means that no one else can do what YOU can do. No one else can be what YOU can be. No one else can do exactly what YOU do because YOU have your own special way of doing it.

Today, look around; notice how each person is one-of-a-kind. It's truly amazing.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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# RESPECT

## Teasing Others

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Most of us have been teased before. Teasing is a funny thing . . . or is it? When someone is being teased, people often laugh as if something funny is happening, but the truth is, teasing usually hurts. "Oh, I was just teasing," people say, but that doesn't make it feel any better, does it?

Listen to some good advice:

***Be kind to your school friends, and never tease them.\****

Are you someone who teases your friends? If you do, stop for a moment and think about the way you would feel if you were being teased. Today and every day, let's treat each other with respect. Don't try to be funny by saying hurtful things.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

\* Actress Lynn Redgrave

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# DIVERSITY

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Have you ever thought about how different everyone is in your family? You probably like different kinds of food and different activities, like putting puzzles together or listening to music. Here at school, we are all very different, too. Some of us have missing front teeth, and some of us have grown tall already. Some come to school by bus and some by car.

Out in the big, wide world, we are all very different, too. Some of us live in America and some in China. Some run races with their feet and some in their wheelchairs.

Whether we are at home or at school or out in the big, wide world, it's important to remember this:

***What makes us so different is also what makes us so special.***

How sad it would be if everyone were just alike.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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# DIVERSITY

## Uniqueness

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

They say no two snowflakes are alike. That's amazing to think about when you consider all the millions and trillions and quadrillions of snowflakes that fall to earth each winter. Imagine — each snowflake a different shape and a different size, unique and unrepeatable. Sounds like human beings.

Now listen to this little poem about snowflakes:

***Though each flake is very different  
There is one point you should know:  
As the snowflakes reach the Earth below  
They become one in a great blanket of snow.\****

Which brings me to this: Just like a great blanket of snow, made up of all those unique and unrepeatable snowflakes, we are one huge blanket of unique and unrepeatable human beings covering Planet Earth. Imagine that!

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

\*Unknown source

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# CONTRIBUTING

## Tolerance

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

When great American actress Cicely Tyson was a child, her mother taught her and her brother and her sister to embroider. They would sit for hours, stitching beautiful patterns onto huge things like tablecloths and bedspreads. Each one would work on a separate corner, and although they worked separately, they were always connected by this huge piece of fabric. When their work was done, they had created one big, beautiful work of art.

To contribute means to give help to someone or something. Each one of us has something special to contribute to this huge thing we call the Quilt of Life. When each one of us contributes to our own small unique and special piece of the quilt, we create something good and beautiful in our schools, in our communities, and in the world.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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# DIVERSITY

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

A mosaic is a beautiful design made up of many, many small pieces of colored glass or stone. Have you seen one? Little pieces are carefully placed side by side until together they make a beautiful work of art.

Former President Jimmy Carter believes that Americans, living side by side, form a beautiful mosaic of human beings. Listen to his words:

***We [are] not a melting pot, but a beautiful mosaic.  
Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings,  
different hopes, different dreams.***

In other words, one thing that makes America so beautiful is that Americans come in so many different colors, shapes, sizes, and personalities. It's what makes America not only beautiful, but powerful.

Without all our differences, our nation wouldn't be as beautiful or as powerful. Today, think about the beautiful mosaic of human beings living in America.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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# LISTENING

## Judging Others

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

It's so easy to stand in judgment of others . . . to make up your mind that someone is wrong or bad or guilty without ever listening to that person's story.

One ancient Greek teacher tells us:

***Never dare to judge until you've heard the other side.***

What do you think about that? Do you think it's important to listen to both sides of the story? Some people would say that listening shows that you have an open mind. If our minds are open, we are open to making good things happen, learning new ideas, and understanding more about others and ourselves.

Next time you are tempted to judge someone, be a wise old owl and listen to the other side of the story.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

\*Euripides

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# BEING YOURSELF

## Uniqueness

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Have you ever wondered if you are special? Well, wonder no more. Listen to these words from Pablo Casals, a Spanish composer and musician:

***[You] must know that [you are] a miracle,  
that since the beginning of the world there hasn't  
been, and until the end of the world there will not be,  
another child like [you].***

I'd say that makes you pretty special, wouldn't you?

Today, take a moment to think about the fact that you are the only person who ever was or ever will be exactly like you. Nobody will ever look exactly like you or think exactly like you or be exactly like you. *You* are unrepeatable. Just being who you are is pretty awesome!

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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# BROTHERHOOD

Good morning, name of school. This is name of narrator with a few words of wisdom.

Everyone wants to be loved and respected. We all want to live in a home and a neighborhood where we are respected. However, our differences are what make us the unrepeatable human beings we truly are.

Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl who lived in hiding during World War II, once wrote that

***We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same.***

Anne understood that no matter where you live or what is happening in your life, each of us wants a chance to be happy.

Today, make the world a more beautiful place by thinking about the things we have in common, while showing the respect for what makes us all so different.

With something to think about, this is name of narrator. Make it a great day . . . or not. The choice is yours.

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