Mary Jo Bushur

*Whoever You Are* Activity

**Materials:**

* Hands Cut Out on Construction Paper
* Tape
* Pens/Pencils/Markers

1. **Before Reading (Discussion)**

* Talk to the person to your left and see if you can come up with one way the two of you are different and one way the two of you are alike.
* Leader asks the group, “What were some differences and similarities you came up with?”
* Leader asks, “What are some other ways or characteristics that make us different?” “What are some ways or aspects that make us the same?”
  + Differences: hair color, eye color, the way we dress, the books we like to read, skin color, where we live, etc.
  + Similarities: both have eyes and a mouth, we all tend to have a home, a heart, specific needs, etc.

1. **During Reading**

* After a quick discussion, the leader will read the book, *Whoever You Are* to the small group.
* Leader states, “While I read the story, think about what makes us different and what makes us similar.”
* Leader reads the book aloud.

1. **After Reading (Discussion/Activity)**

* Leader asks, “What do you think the main idea of the book was?”
  + Acceptance, treating everyone with kindness.
  + Don’t base how you treat others by their differences.
  + We need to accept our differences and recognize or similarities, and celebrate both of them.
* Leader asks, “What did you think of the book?” “Have you ever treated someone differently based on their differences or how they were similar?”
* Leader states, “Everyone deserves kindness and respect regardless of how different they are.”
* Leader passes out paper hands and pens to everyone. Leader explains the activity.
* Leader states, “I have given each of you a paper hand. I want you to write on the hand one way that makes you different and one way that makes you alike everyone else in the world. Please put your name on the hand somewhere.”
* Leader states, “Once you have written on your hand one difference and one similarity, I want you to grab a piece of tape and tape it around the world/earth.”