



# Room In The Inn: Building a Beloved Community

## Lesson Plan PreK - 3rd Grade

**Curriculum Connections:** Social Studies, English, Language Arts, Reading

**Thematic Connections:** Citizenship, Friendship, Community, Responsibility, Tolerance, Inclusion

### Overview:

The goal of this lesson is to introduce the concept of Martin Luther King's vision of The Beloved Community and why community is important. It is important for this age group to learn about community for the following reasons:

- Prepares students for engaging in community action in the future
- Fosters tolerance and inclusion of those who are different from us
- Begins broadening students' understanding of community

### Goals for PreK - 3rd graders learning about The Beloved Community:

- Build awareness of others who are different from us
- Begin laying a foundation for understanding how to live in a diverse community
- Provide tangible means for students to contribute to making their community safe for all people

In this lesson plan we've provided suggested videos, discussion questions, and an activity – we strongly encourage group discussion and the activity to ensure students are learning through participation.

To prepare yourself to lead this lesson, check out the one-pager on [The Beloved Community](#).

### Discussion Questions BEFORE Reading:

- What is a community?
- How would you describe the community where you live?
- What should happen when people are in a community together?

**Read the book *God's Dream* by Desmond Tutu LeUyen Pham, and Douglas Carlton Abrams together:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5968NvmvUk>

## Discussion Questions AFTER Reading:

- What is one of your “loveliest of dreams?”
- What does it look like to treat people as a “whole person?”
- What are ways that you have felt loved by others?
- How can we make others around us feel loved?
- What are some ways we can help God’s dream come true in our own community?

## Reflection Activity:

### Make a class “reaching hands” poster.

- Have each student trace their hand on a piece of white paper and color it any way they wish.
- On a large black poster board or piece of black butcher paper, write a quote in the center that describes *God’s Dream* in white paint or chalk pen. Here are some suggestions:
  - “We are family, we are made for togetherness”
  - “We are all brothers and sisters”
  - “This is our dream”
- Paste the traced hands on the poster encircling the quote.



## Activity Options:

### Writing:

- Have students write about their dream for their community.
- Have students write letters to the principal about how the school can improve their community.

### Art:

- Have students draw a picture of what community looks like to them.
- Have students color a picture of Martin Luther King Jr.

### Service Opportunities:

- Have students make encouraging signs for the school hallways.
- Have students create a “no bullying pact.”

