



SCRIPTURE AND CITIZENSHIP

WE ARE RELATED

We are Related - one to another through our Heavenly Father. We find God in our love for each other.



Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

As we encourage our children to understand and respect their own uniqueness, we help them to value the uniqueness of others. The love of God goes beyond division of age, creed, culture and wealth.

We teach our children that to claim our individual rights as citizens means we must uphold these same rights for all. Individual rights are extended to what we have come to call Universal Human Rights. These express our basic right to life, and to the dignity and justice which enable us to flourish.

Alongside our rights come responsibilities to each other. When we show concern, courtesy, generosity of attitude as well as time and money, we model for our children the habits of behaviour which reflect a real respect for others. We help them to think beyond their own needs.

When we reflect and pray with our children, we help them to cultivate an active conscience with which to cherish life: the instinct which will prompt them to seek and pay attention to God in all people, places and cultures, particularly those we don't like.



- As Catholics how do we understand citizenship?
- How do we encourage our children to be good citizens?
- What can the Bible teach us about citizenship?



ACTION POINTS FOR FAMILIES

Read this Bible story:

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Listen to someone you don't agree with and reflect on what you have learned from them. How can this help you to respect other people who don't think like you?

Say the 'Our Father' prayer.