

**Literature Circle
6 Week Lesson Plan
For
“Same Kind of Different as Me”**

Literature Circle 6 Week Lesson Plan For Wednesday Night Programming

Many of the families that participate in the Wednesday night programming have expressed a desire to engage in a book club. Others have shared that they would like to find something that they can share with their “older teens” who are not as interested in participating in the normal bible study that is held. In our effort to meet the needs of these groups we have developed a 6 week literature circle format that will be intergenerational and will also allow for family conversations outside of the literature circles.

The individual groups will meet for 1 hour each week with 45 minutes dedicated to book discussion and the other 15 minutes used to make reading assignments for the next session, agree upon the highlights of the evening conversation and select a summarizer to present on behalf of their group to the larger group meeting. The large group meeting will convene with all groups coming together for a 30 minute summary session, debrief and/or a mini lesson led by the facilitator.

The book that has been selected for the initial literature circle is “The Same Kind of Different as Me” by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. It is anticipated that upon completion of the first 6-week cycle that group members will select subsequent titles for reading and discussion based upon their interest or the books selected.

Below is the lesson plan for the 6 week cycle:

Week One

Introduction to Literature Circles (Facilitator) –1 hr.

Good Evening! We are delighted that all of you have joined us for our 1st literature circle meeting. We hope that this will be all that you envisioned it to be and that you all will have fun talking about books and learning from each other. Before we get started with the mechanics of

setting up our groups I wanted to take a few minutes to talk briefly about what literature circles are and what we all can gain by being involved in them.

Let me begin by explaining that literature circles are small groups of people who come together on a regular basis to have in-depth discussions of a pre-selected piece of literature. The discussions are guided by reader response to what has been read and can be shared by talking about specific events and characters in the book, the author's use of various literary styles and techniques, questions that you would pose to the author or one of the characters, personal experiences related to the story, key words or phrases from the book, or visual imagery that the book inspires. Literature circles will hopefully provide a way for each of you to engage in critical thinking and reflection as you read, discuss, and respond to books. Collaboration will be the heart of our literature circles. Each of you participating in the literature circles will help to shape, reshape and add to your understanding as you construct meaning with other readers in your group. Finally, it is my hope that our literature circles will help guide you to a deeper understanding of what you read through the reader response journals and structured discussions.

Reader response journals will be your way of engaging the book outside of your group meetings (**pass out journals**). These are yours to keep. The way that they are to be used is; as you are reading, write down thoughts that come to mind, phrases that catch your attention or that you can relate to. Write down words that stick out to you, seem important to the story or that you're unsure of what they mean. Draw pictures of imagery that you see in the readings. Anything that interest, challenges or excites you about the readings can be put into your reader response journal to be shared with your group at your weekly meetings. Be sure to write down page numbers and paragraph so that you and your group members can easily find it when referencing specific passages, phrases or words during your discussions. It will also be helpful in "proving" your argument or position in a discussion.

We have 25 people signed up for our literature circle this time. So, in order to facilitate this first time around I have divided you all into 5 groups of 5. Please check the sheet that is being passed around to see which group you will be in. As we have teens, parents and grandparents participating, I attempted to mix up family members so that you all are not in the same group. Hopefully, this will allow you all to have more freedom in your conversations but it will also allow for additional conversations at home as a follow up to what was started in your individual groups. For the next cycle of our literature circles we will allow the book selections to determine the groups but for our 1st go around I thought this would work best.

Okay, as I mentioned earlier, the book for this 6 week session will be “Same Kind of Different as Me” (**pass out books**). “Same Kind of Different as Me”, is a book that is factual but that could be just as easily misread as fiction. The book tells an unlikely story of the unlikeliest of friends, Ron Hall, who is white and Denver Moore, who is black. Told in two voices, the book alternates between telling the story from the perspectives of both Ron and Denver. Now, for the purpose of getting you all started with this book I am asking that everyone (**Assignment: read pages 1 - 50**) for next week. Once you are in your groups next week, you all will decide as a group how many pages or chapters you will read each week.

Now just to recap what we will be doing each week. We will convene in the fellowship hall as a group for a brief meet and greet. Snacks will be available and you may take them with you to your circle meeting. Each circle will locate a space where they can meet. I will let you all go in a few minutes so that each group can get together and go “claim your space” for next week. Our large group meeting will not last but about 5 to 10 minutes and then you all will go to your groups. Groups will meet and discuss for 45 minutes then wrap up by agreeing upon your reading assignment for next week, the “highlights” of the week’s discussion, and selecting your group reporter. We will then all re-convene as a large group in the fellowship hall. Each group will then present a summary of your group’s discussion for the large group. We will then talk about what went well in each group

and what problems may have been encountered (**development of group norms**) Everyone is encouraged to make a list that can be kept in the front of your journal listing what we will call the “social norms” for our groups. This can then be referenced during your actual group meetings as reminders, if needed.

I believe that’s it except that I want to encourage you all to have fun with this book. Begin to think creatively as you make entries in your reader response journals and share in your groups. Remember there are no right or wrong answers, just your experience, inspiration and interpretation.

Okay, does anyone have any questions?

You all may now go and stake a claim for your discussion area. I will see you all next week and I am looking forward to some lively discussions. See you all next week!!

Week 2

6:30 – 6:40 Meet & Greet

Facilitator: Welcome, everyone to this weeks meeting of the literature circle. I hope that everyone is excited and ready to get started. Are there any questions before we get started? Alright, let’s grab our snacks and get into our discussion groups. I will come around at **7:25** to let you all know that its wrap up time. Have a great discussion!

6:40 - 7:25 Group Book Discussion

7:25 – 7:40 Group Wrap-Up

7:40 – 7:45 Re-convene Large Group

7:45 - 8:15 Individual Group Summaries (no more than 5 minutes each)

8:15 – 8:30 Group Processing

***Facilitator should circulate to all groups making note of what seems to be working well and areas that may need to be developed through group processing or mini lessons.**

Week 3

6:30 – 6:40 Meet & Greet

Facilitator: Greet the group. Provide any housekeeping instructions and dismiss to reading groups.

6:40 - 7:25 Group Book Discussion

- 7:25 – 7:40 **Group Wrap-Up**
- 7:40 – 7:45 **Re-convene Large Group**
- 7:45 - 8:15 **Individual Group Summaries (no more than 5 minutes each)**
- 8:15 – 8:30 **Group Processing**

Week 4

- 6:30 – 6:40 **Meet & Greet**

Facilitator: Greet the group. Provide housekeeping instructions and dismiss to reading groups.

- 6:40 - 7:25 **Group Book Discussion**
- 7:25 – 7:40 **Group Wrap-Up**
- 7:40 – 7:45 **Re-convene Large Group**
- 7:45 - 8:15 **Individual Group Summaries (no more than 5 minutes each)**
- 8:15 – 8:30 **Group Processing**

Week 5

- 6:30 – 6:40 **Meet & Greet**

Facilitator: Greet the group. Provide housekeeping instructions and dismiss to reading groups.

- 6:40 - 7:25 **Group Book Discussion**
- 7:25 – 7:40 **Group Wrap-Up**
- 7:40 – 7:45 **Re-convene Large Group**
- 7:45 - 8:15 **Individual Group Summaries (no more than 5 minutes each)**
- 8:15 – 8:30 **Mini Lesson: Choice of literary style used by the author**

Week 6

- 6:30 – 6:40 **Meet & Greet**

Facilitator: Greet the group. Provide housekeeping instructions and dismiss to reading groups.

- 6:40 - 7:25 **Group Book Discussion**
- 7:25 – 7:40 **Group Wrap-Up**
- 7:40 – 7:45 **Re-convene Large Group**
- 7:45 - 8:15 **Individual Group Summaries (no more than 5 minutes each)**

8:15 – 8:30 **Debrief on literature circle experience** (How was the experience? How did it compare to other book clubs you have participated in? What would you change about the literature circle?)