



# ORANGE SHIRT DAY

## Let's Talk About It

### LET'S CHAT

Use these questions to encourage a time of discussion with your children. You may want to choose two or three questions to get the conversation started. Be aware of providing each family member with an opportunity to share as you move around the table.

What does the word neighbour mean to you?

Who do you think our neighbours are?

How do you think we are to treat our neighbours?

Today is an important day; what can you tell me about it?

What can you tell me about Orange Shirt Day?

What is something you've heard about residential schools in Canada?

### LET'S TRY

Use this activity to get your family thinking about how we are all different from each other, but we are all part of one big country here in Canada.

*(Have a package of skittles on hand ready to be opened and shared.)*

I've got a package of skittles here with me today. What can you tell me about skittles? *(Encourage responses: they're candy, they come in different colours and flavours, you can get sweet or sour skittles, commercial jingles, etc.)* Which flavour of skittles is your favourite? *(Allow responses)*

Let's try a little experiment. Let's see how well you would do at telling me the flavour of skittles. We're going to take turns seeing how well we do at identifying our flavours. Close your eyes and put your hand out. *(One at a time, put a skittle in a family member's hand and have them taste it and tell the rest of you what the flavour is. Go around the table giving each person an opportunity to test their tasting abilities. Keep track of how well you all do.)* How did we do? Did we each guess correctly? Or is it easier to identify the flavour when we know the colour of skittle going into our mouths?

Skittles are a fun candy treat, but I want you to think about something. Let's think of this package of Skittles *(hold up the wrapper)* as Canada. Our country is like this package of skittles as we are all different from each other. We have different languages, different skin tones, different hair colours, different backgrounds, but we are all part of the same big country! We, like the different flavours of candy make up a big bag of Skittles.



## LET'S READ

*This passage from Mark 12 encourages us to think about how we love God, but also how we love those around us – our neighbours.*

One day Jesus was asked by a teacher of the law, which of the commandments was the greatest. Let's read His answer together from Mark 12:29-31 (NIV): *(consider having each family member look up this passage and read out loud together.)*

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Jesus has told us who we should love and how. Who should we love? *(God, our neighbour, and ourselves)* How are we to love God? *(With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength)* We are to love God with everything about us. We are to love Him with our words, our thoughts, our innermost self and with our physical strength. What are some ways we can love God with our words? How about our thoughts or soul? What about our strength? *(Encourage responses to each of these questions)*

Who else did Jesus tell us we are to love? *(Our neighbour)* Who do you think our neighbour is? *(Kids may respond with person living next to us, on our street, in our building)* Our neighbour means everyone. Jesus wants us to love everyone! That means He wants us to love those who live next to us, those who are sitting right here at our table, those who live on our street, go to our school, but also those who look different than us, speak differently than us. He wants us to love everyone!

Jesus also goes on to say that we are to love our neighbour as ourselves. What do you think that means? How do we love ourselves? *(Encourage responses. Encourage kids to share how they love themselves.)*

We love ourselves by taking care of our bodies. How do we care for our bodies? *(Feed them, keep them clean, protect them from illness, exercise, give them rest when tired, etc.)*

We love ourselves by caring for our hearts and minds. How do we care for our hearts and minds? *(By being careful about what we watch, listen to, or read, by thinking good thoughts, by hanging out with friends who are positive influences and by being grateful for what we have.)*

We love ourselves by caring for our soul. How do we care for our souls? *(By reading the Bible, talking with God, going to church with other Christians who love God and learning from each other, by sharing our stories)*

If we do all these things to show love to ourselves, how should we be loving our neighbour? *(In similar ways.)* We need to care about our neighbour's, heart, mind, soul, and body. If we want to love our neighbour, we need to get to know them. We need to spend time with them. We need to listen to their story and care about their needs.

## LET'S CONSIDER

*Take a moment to pause and consider what Orange Shirt Day means and how you can be a good neighbour to our Indigenous communities.*

Today is Orange Shirt Day. Who can tell me what that means? Why is it important that we pause and think about it? *(Encourage responses. Give your kids time to share what they've learned with you. Share what you know about Orange Shirt Day.)*

Orange Shirt Day is a day when we honour and remember Indigenous children who were taken away from their families and sent away to residential schools. Residential schools were schools that children lived at without their parents with them. They were places where Indigenous children were treated poorly and were forced to forget their languages and customs. The conditions at these schools were horrible and we hope that no one will ever have to live that way again. These children were not loved as God wanted them to be loved.

Today we are working on being better neighbours to our Indigenous neighbours. Today is about loving them by listening to their stories and working towards reconciliation. Reconciliation means that we are working to bring people together and learning to understand each other.

*(Consider sharing an Orange Shirt Day video with your family see the suggestions under "EXTRAS" on page 4.)*

## LET'S PRAY

*Feel free to use this prayer or give your family members an opportunity to pray as you pray around the table.*

Creator God, we live in a world where our relationships with people have been broken. We are sorry for the way Indigenous children were treated. We are sorry that residential schools caused so much pain and hurt for the children who went there. We are sorry that our country separated families and made individuals feel so badly about who they were. Help us to see the truth and do our part in the healing process by listening to our neighbour's stories and work hard to make sure this never happens again. Give us opportunities to share Your great love with all our neighbours so they may come to know You. May this year's Orange Shirt Day be the opportunity for relationships to be healed. Amen.



## EXTRAS

### Pre-School

Introduce your pre-schoolers to CBC Kids' Molly of Denali. In "Grandpa's Drum" Molly goes on a mission to find Grandpa's Drum and to bring music back to him: <https://youtu.be/vSkJRXI2DDQ>

### Elementary Age

Do you know The Orange Shirt Story? Hear Phyllis' Orange Shirt book being read on this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBvA1cNo7o8>

Do you know what it was like to go to a residential school? Hear Margaret Pokiak-Fenton's story from her book "When I Was Eight" being read: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSBrkJn3Nel>

Do you know what Indigenous means? Check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CISeEFTsgDA>

Do you know why we participate in Orange Shirt Day? Check out this 2020 video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atMqN7Zmu9g>

### Middle School

Read or listen to the story of Chanie Wenjack who died while he walking 400 miles home to the family he was taken from. "The Secret Path" (This is not Indigenous written, but it is written in partnership with Indigenous nations.) is available as:

An official video "The Stranger" by Gord Downie featuring the first chapter and official song of "The Secret Path": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=za2VzjkwTfc>

A graphic novel from Amazon.ca

A motion picture on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGd764YU9yc&t=1984s> featuring music of The Tragically Hip (First portion is the movie, second half is a panel discussion)

Wonder what the Bible says about justice? Watch the Bible Project Video "Justice" and find out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A14THPoc4-4>

Do you know The Orange Shirt Story? Hear Phyllis' Orange Shirt book being read on this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBvA1cNo7o8>

Do you know what it was like to go to a residential school? Hear Margaret Pokiak-Fenton's story from her book "When I Was Eight" being read: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSBrkJn3Nel>

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### High School

Looking to have conversation with your teens around the effects of residential schools? Watch the video "Indian Horse" together and then spend time talking about it (available on Netflix or Amazon Prime Video). The story is based on the novel by Richard Wagamese and his struggle with the loss of culture, racism and his love for hockey. Novel is available from Amazon.ca.

