



# the family values toolkit

For Children Ages 14 to 18

## This Month's Featured Value Is: **Tolerance**

A tolerant person accepts diversity and doesn't prejudge others on the basis of religion, race, or gender. If we are to live in harmony with others and seek cooperative solutions to conflicts, we need to focus more on our common humanity than on our differences. How a person treats those who appear different depends to a large extent on what he or she is taught in childhood.



## What Can Parents Do to Nurture This Important Value?

### First, Set Goals:

**Raise adults who appreciate both the richness of different cultures and the similarities among people, who see themselves as part of the whole of mankind.**

Teens are usually accepting of others their age (though not of adults) and have a well-honed sense of justice that causes them to defend the underdog. At school they're learning at a more advanced level about racism and the Holocaust, and they typically empathize with victims of discrimination. If your teen is a victim of intolerance, talk about peaceful and legal actions your family can take to oppose it.

### Next, Take Action! Try These Activities:

- ✓ **Encourage your teen to join a debate society.** This is a great way for them to learn to look at all sides of an issue, as well as to get them to back up their strong convictions with strong evidence. It develops analytical thinking and breaks down prejudice.
- ✓ **Think about encouraging your child to become an exchange student or take a semester abroad.** Traveling and making friends from other cultures at this stage can lead to a life of leadership. It also broadens horizons and looks great on those college applications!
- ✓ **Learn from history.** Talk to kids about examples of intolerance in history, and talk about why events like the Holocaust, the Civil Rights movement, genocide in Rwanda, the Crusades, etc., happened. When your teens read books like "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" in school, engage with them about them, or watch films like "Schindler's List" and "Hotel Rwanda" together. (Note: These movies are for very mature teens.) Talk about how the heroes of these films found the courage to save thousands of people from genocide.

### Then, Report Back!

Share your stories of success, your challenges, and overall experiences with others in our community @

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