

WE ARE THE TREE - WE ARE THE WORLD

Intent of these notes

- ✓ *Realize that you are an essential part of the world. You are the word.*
- ✓ *Feel one with all. Take responsibility for all mankind.*
- ✓ *Play your role.*

The Story

There was a magnificent tree. It was sturdy, graceful and shady. Its branches, loaded with fruits, leaves and freshness were gently swinging in the cool early mornings. On an unhappy day, the branches began complaining to the tree.

One said: "I am not prepared to remain for ever just being a branch. I want to be a tree like you with roots and trunk. I want to stand on my own feet and be independent"

The tree replied: "You are part of the tree as all other branches. You and your leaf-laden twigs swinging in the breeze, give us vibrant beauty and life. All of us make the tree!"

Another branch complained: "Why should I have so many leaves and hardly any fruits? I want to have as many fruits as the branch next to me! It's not fair that I should be treated differently.

Very gently, the tree replied: "What does it matter if leaves and fruits are not evenly distributed among the branches? All that belongs to all belongs to each! Were not for your leaves, there wouldn't be so many fruits in the other branches. Don't forget. We all are one single tree!"

Then, another branch rejoined: "I am tired of having so many flowers. Insects come to me for nectar and pollen and give me no peace; even passersby would pluck my flowers away! It's not just. Why should I suffer more than the other branches?"

The tree responded: "Darling, beauty goes with suffering. You are the most beautiful branch, suffering is the price. Your flowers are our flowers. Your sufferings are our sufferings, our leaves and our fruits are yours also! Remember, we all make one tree

At last, some other branch bewailed: "Why should, these orchids grow on me? Why do they rob me my sap and drain my strength? Why should I only, of all the branches, bear this pain and loss? I do not want to belong to the tree"

With great patience and kindness the tree remarked: "These precious orchids cannot live without us! They need our support and service. They give to our tree an incomparable beauty and teach us to be generous. It is because of you that all of us, all the branches can show compassion and love to our brothers and sisters in need. It's we, not you, not he alone. We all together make the tree"

POINTS REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Why were the branches of the tree feeling so wretched and miserable?
2. Can the branches of any tree be self-sufficient separated from the tree? Why?
3. Do they need each other? Actually speaking, what makes a tree?
4. Applying the moral of story to ourselves, can anyone of us, cut off from other people, be truly "self-sufficient"? Why?
5. How can you as an individual contribute to the welfare and growth of any group you belong to, say your family, your school, your college, or any other?
6. What have you done for your home people? For the needy? For your country?
7. Can your life make our world a better one? How?
8. Would there be any reason for feeling jealous of others - as the branches of the tree did -if we accepted ourselves as we are for the good of all? 'Why?

Explain these sayings:

- No man is an island.
- The world needs you and me to be the world
- Do not ask what the world can do for you; ask rather, what you can do for the world
- The world is everybody plus you and me.
- Without you and me, the world would be different. Better or worse depends on us.
- They day you die, the world should be better because you lived in it.
- You cannot leave your imprints on the sand of time, sitting down!.
- Never say: Someone else will do it, why should I?

APPENDIX You are the World (Lyrics)

Read and reflect on the Lyrics of the song..

If you know the tune, sing it as well

There comes a time
 When we head a certain call
 When the world must come together as one
 There are people dying
 And it's time to lend a hand to life
 The greatest gift of all

We can't go on
 Pretending day by day
 That someone, somewhere will
 soon make a change
 We are all a part of
 God's great big family
 And the truth, you know love is all we need

[Chorus]
 We are the world
 We are the children
 We are the ones who make a brighter day
 So let's start giving

There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day
Just you and me

Send them your heart
So they'll know that someone cares
And their lives will be stronger and free
As God has shown us by turning stone
to bread
So we all must lend a helping hand

[Chorus]
We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a
brighter day
So let's start giving
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day
Just you and me

When you're down and out
There seems no hope at all
But if you just believe
There's no way we can fall
Well, well, well, well, let us realize
That a change will only come
When we stand together as one

[Chorus]
We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make
a brighter day
So let's start giving
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day
Just you and me