

**“The Circle”**  
**By Jack Bloomfield**

**Characters**

Moderator, George (Republican), Valerie (Caucasian), Koresh (Hindu), Billy (Male)  
Suzi (Japanese), William (Homosexual), Howard (Jewish), Marilyn (Conservative)  
Maureen (Female), Don (Liberal), Cicely (Black), Mohammed (Muslim),  
Audrey (Catholic), Mike (Democrat), Alana (Human Being), Tom (American),  
Godfrey (Canadian), Erin (Christian), Pedro (South American), Sadir (Iraqi)  
Sandra (Lesbian), Paul (Indian)

**This short play can be performed with a lesser amount of characters if necessary.  
Adapt to number of actors available.**

\*\*\*Synopsis\*\*\*

A circle has formed that speaks of hatred, fear and division, and is gaining momentum until one girl’s voice is heard in a different light. She brings this light to the attention of the others which in time turns the circle into one of unity, hope and a chance for peace and brotherhood among *all* people.

**MESSAGE FOCUS:** *Hatred, intolerance and division often come from seeing others as being from a certain group rather than as fellow human beings. Shows many stereotypes and some of the ways people relate to others that are “different” than themselves. Also addresses the need to do away with labels that people often put on others.*

The scene opens up with a large circle formed by all of the characters with the exception of the moderator. The moderator opens by standing in front of the circle facing the audience. As the play unfolds, each character in the circle will introduce themselves to the audience. Each character in the circle is facing outward with their backs facing each other. When they are finished with their introduction, the entire circle at the same time moves one place to the right and the next character introduces themselves until the entire circle has introduced themselves to the audience.

Moderator:

(center stage facing audience) “Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Behind me is a circle. Circles represent many things, some good and some not so good. Some have called this circle a circle of hatred and fear while others have referred to it as “a circle divided.” I will let you decide for yourself at the conclusion of each person’s introduction.”

(turns to George who is at center stage) “Our introductions will begin with George.”(raises his arm and motions to George to begin the introductions.)

George:

“My name is George and I am a Republican. Because of my political affiliation, a lot of people don’t like me.”

Valerie:

“My name is Valerie and I am a member of the white race. Because of my skin color, some people hate me.”

Koresh:

“My name is Koresh and I am a Hindu and because of my religious beliefs, there are many who don’t understand me.”

Suzi:

“My name is Suzi and I am Japanese. Because of my nationality there are a lot of people who hate me.”

William:

“My name is William and I am a homosexual. Because of my sexual orientation, there are a lot of people who are both frightened of me and hate me as well.”

Howard:

“My name is Howard and I am Jewish and because of my faith and heritage, there are many people who hate me.”

Marylin:

“My name is Marylin and I am a conservative. Because of my view of the world, I am considered evil by many people.”

Billy:

“My name is Billy and I am a man. You wouldn’t believe it but because of my gender there are many people who do not like me.”

Maureen:

“My name is Maureen and I am a woman. I do believe it because I know because of my gender, there are many who do not like me either.”

Audrey:

“My name is Audrey and I am a Catholic. Because of my religious beliefs there are many people who dishonor me.”

Cicely:

“My name is Cicely and I am black. Because of my skin color there are many who hate me.”

Mohammed:

“My name is Mohammed and I am a Muslim and because of my religion, there are many people who are afraid of me and hate me as well.”

Don:

“My name is Don and I am a liberal. Because of my views of certain ideals in the world, there are many who hate me.

Mike:

“My name is Mike and I’m a democrat and because of my political views there are many people who despise me.”

Alana:

“My name is Alana and I’m a human being”

Tom:

“My name is Tom and I’m an American. Because of where I was born and my heritage, there are many people who hate me.”

Godfrey:

“My name is Godfrey and I am a Canadian and because of the country I am from, there are many people who do not like me.”

Erin:

“My name is Erin and I am a Christian. Because of my religious beliefs there are many people in the world who hate me.”

Pedro:

“My name is Pedro and I am from South America and because of my nationality there are many people in the world who do not like me.”

Sadir:

“My name is Sadir and I am an Iraqi. Because of my heritage and the country I live in, there are many people who hate me.”

Paul:

“My name is Paul and I am from India and because of my nationality, there are many who hate me.”

Sandra:

“My name is Sandra and I am a gay woman and because of my sexual orientation, there are many people in the world who hate me.”

(Sandra is the last in the circle to introduce herself. The circle has now completely gone around to each character.)

Moderator:

“Alana. Where is Alana? (Alana raises her hand) Could you please step forward and introduce yourself again?”

Alana:

“Yes, my name is Alana and I am a human being.”

Moderator:

“And.... Continue....”

Alana:

“Continue what?”

Moderator:

“The rest of your introduction.”

Alana:

What do you mean? (with great emphasis) That ***is*** my introduction.”

Moderator:

“Well, doesn’t anyone hate you or despise you?”

Alana:

“Not that I know of.”

Moderator:

“Well, that’s certainly different from all of the other introductions. Why is that?”

Alana:

“It’s simple. I identified myself as a human being, not by the labels that people give to themselves and others. When labels are attached to people who belong to certain groups, it is then that hatred and division often arise. Mainly cause of fear I guess.”

Moderator:

“What are people afraid of?”

Alana:

“It’s my feeling that it comes from a lack of knowledge and understanding.”

Moderator:

“This division is surely causing a lot of pain and anguish in our society. What can we do to start a healing process?”

Alana:

“We must begin to see all people as human beings first and any hatred and division will melt away. We must realize that as the saying goes, *WE’RE ALL in THIS TOGETHER*. If we do, our whole planet could be healed of hatred and wars, crime and poverty, violence and prejudice.”

(Alana begins to whisper in the ear of each person in the circle as she makes a complete turn around the entire circle. When she is finished, she turns to the audience.)

Alana:

(to the audience) “Each person would like a second opportunity to introduce themselves.”

(Starting in the same order, beginning with George, each character introduces themselves once again. If available, an instrumental piece of music can be playing softly in the background)

All Characters:

(one at a time) My name is... and I am a human being.”

(As each character makes their introduction, they move one space to the right as before and *then turn and face inward* in the circle. If music is being used, at this time volume increase slightly as dialogue now ceases. When all of the characters have finished their introductions they are now facing each other, with their backs to the audience. When the introductions are finished there is no more dialogue. Alana rejoins the circle and takes Georges hand and then George takes the hand to the right of his. Each person, **one at a time** going around the circle takes the hand of the person next to them. When all hands are joined, **slowly** everyone begins to walk to the center of the circle slowly raising their hands as the stage lights fade to black.)

THE END

**Dialogue and Questions:**

Why do people generally fall into one group or another?

Is it possible to really hate someone who doesn't fit into your group or who is in a group that is the opposite of yours?

Labels are good for groceries in the super market. Are they good to use when referring to other people?

Is it fear that makes some people hate others and if so, where does that fear come from?

Why is it that some people feel that their religion, race or political views are superior to others?

Do you personally see other people as fellow human beings or do you put labels on them?