

**Colloquialisms (co – low -kwee- ul – is – im -z):**

a way of speaking more informally to influence an audience; unique words spoken in differing world regions.

We notice them when we come in contact with people from other places. This is different than slang because all age groups use the same word. Slang tends to be age specific. An example was “groovy” in the 1960s. Younger people mostly used that term so was slang.

In **Uncle Martin’s Porch Tales**, the colloquialism “yuns” was used by Emily but is spoken by people of all ages in various regions of the world including the people of North Carolina. Yuns is a synonym of y’all, you guys, youz, and all a form of “you.”

Social and moral connections: God made each person exactly the way it pleased Him. Have you ever seen someone made fun of for the way they talked? Has that ever happened to you? I encourage you to celebrate and respect the unique words and ways of people of all colors and creeds and origins. May we not condemn, make fun of, or consider less of anyone who does not sound like we sound

The Bible tells us of a story of God flooding the earth and Noah build an ark to save animals and his family. Afterwards, God gave us a rainbow after the flood as His promise that He would never flood the earth again. (Genesis 6-9) I like to also think of that rainbow as God’s art and how He loves every color and every person no matter how they talk or where they live or the color their skin. Just like a rainbow is full of many colors, heaven will one day be filled with people of many varieties. We know this from scripture:

Revelations 7:9 – After these things, I looked, and there was a crowd so large that no one was able to count it! **They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They were standing in front of the throne and the Lamb** and were wearing white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

Discussion questions for families:

1. Do some cultures seem to be appreciated for their ways of life over others? For example, many seem to love to try to speak like Australians and learn their unique words like “the Barbie” and “g’day mate.” Why is that not the same for all cultures?
2. Romans 8:1 says, “Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. What is the spirit of condemnation? Do you allow that to be a part of your life? Do you consider others as Jesus would?”
3. Go back to the book. Compare how you first reacted to the use of “thar” and “yuns” to now.
4. Are there certain situations when we might avoid use of colloquialisms? Watch clips from My Fair Lady and discuss.
5. If you have made fun of others due to their language or looks, what will you now do?

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