

SMALL GROUP | DAY 3

WHAT MAKES ME FEEL WELCOME?



Bible

1 John 4:9-11 – “Here is how God showed His love among us. He sent His one and only Son into the world. He sent Him so we could receive life through Him. Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that He loved us and sent His Son to give His life to pay for our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another.”

Vesper will join in sometime during small group and do crafts/games with the crew!

Supplies

- Door hanger craft items
- Markers and pencils
- Matching game cards
- Take action prints (1 per camper)

Activity - Door Hanger Decorating

This morning we saw a welcome banner for the front door because we want those who enter to feel extra special and loved when they come into our house.

Do you have a welcome mat at your house? If so, what does it say?

Let's decorate our own door hanger for your home or bedroom. It can be just like a welcome mat.

What will your door hanger say?

Discussion Questions

- Who comes over to play or hang out at your house?
- What helps your friends or cousins feel special?
- Does your family invite others over for a BBQ or dinner? How do you get the house ready so your guests feel welcome and special?
- When you meet someone new, how should you introduce yourself and help them feel welcome?
- Ever walked into a room and didn't know anyone? It can be scary. What makes you feel welcome?

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Every person wants to belong. Even someone who likes to be by themselves still wants to belong with family and friends. We make people feel special when we say Hi! and welcome them in.

Digging Deeper - Review Bible Story

In our Bible story today, how did the woman make Elisha feel welcome in her home?

She gave him good meals and made a room for him to sleep.

How Jesus Welcomed Others In

The woman in our Bible Story reminds me of Jesus. Jesus always welcomed others.

He didn't send anyone away even if they were blind, sick, or begged for money.

Jesus loved it when children played around Him as He taught. The Bible says that when others wanted to send the children away, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

Jesus is the best example of loving and welcoming others in.

The Bible says,

"Here is how God showed His love among us. He sent His one and only Son into the world. He sent Him so we could receive life through Him. Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that He loved us and sent His Son to give His life to pay for our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another." 1 John 4:9-11 NIRV

What to Do if Others Don't Welcome You In

- Was there a time when you didn't feel welcome in a new group or class?
- How did you feel and what did you wish happened instead?

Special Note:

Listen well and empathize. Ask if this has made them more thoughtful about welcoming new classmates or teammates.

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Matching Game | What Belongs Together?

We're going to play a matching relay game.

Place the category pictures in a row on a table at one end of the room. Turn all matching cards upside down and arrange in columns and rows on a table on the other side of the room. Campers must pick a matching card and run it to the category card table and match it up under the correct category's column.

Category Cards include:

- Camping with the image of a tent
- Beach Vacation with the image of a sun hat
- Amusement Park with the image of a ticket
- Zoo with the image of a panda eating bamboo
- Theatre with the image of stage, red curtain, microphone on a stand

Matching cards include images of:

Camping: hiking boots, bug spray, lantern or flashlight, matches, canoe,

Beach Vacation: beach chair, sand bucket and shovel, bathing suit, goggles, beach umbrella

Amusement Park: bag with goldfish swimming around, big teddy bear won at a fair game, roller coaster chair, Merry-Go-Round, Ferris Wheel

Zoo: rhino, baby lion cub, elephant, peacock, zebra

Theatre: wig, costume, playbill, shoes, orchestra, theatre chairs, ticket, mask

Connection to Theme and Game

It would be silly to put a beach chair in the zoo in the middle of the rhino's pen, wouldn't it?
It would be silly to take the goldfish you won at an amusement park midway with you on your camping trip, wouldn't it?

We made the objects belong together in the right groups.

In the same way, you belong when you make others feel welcome and special, like they belong with you.

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People feel special when they belong.

Even at home, we want our family members to feel like they belong.
That's today's Take Action!

TODAY'S TAKE ACTION

At home, every time someone enters the room you are in, clap and cheer for them and say, "Whoohooo! ___name___ is in the room!"

Celebrate, clap, and cheer for each other like they are famous.

The first time you clap and cheer for them, "Whoohoo! name in here!" they might look at you like you're crazy, but secretly, they will love it because they want to belong too.

Write the names of your family who you clap for in the clapping hands in your Playbill. Bring your Playbill back tomorrow and show your clapping hands to your Crew Leader.

Special Note:

When Campers show their Playbill on Day 4, ask,

- What response did you get when you clapped and cheered for your family members?
- How do you think you brightened their day?
- Who liked it most?

PRAYER

Dear God, we are glad to learn that we belong when we welcome others in. It's not easy being the new one in a group and not knowing anyone. Thank you for friends who make us feel welcome when we are new, and help us to be good friends who welcome others in. Amen.

