

# SMALL GROUP | DAY 3

## YOU BELONG WHEN YOU WELCOME OTHERS IN



### Bible

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. I John 4:9-11NIRV

### Supplies

- Door hanger craft items, markers
- Matching game cards
- Two tables per Crew room

### Craft & Discussion

VERA wanted two welcome mats for her front door because she loved them both and wanted her friends to feel extra special when they came to her 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?

### Prepare In Advance

- mark Bible at Matthew 20:29-34, Matthew 19:13-15, I John 4:9-11NIRV
- think of a time when their family welcomed others in. Be ready to share

### Discussion Questions

- Who comes over to play or hang out at your house?
- What helps your friends or cousins feel special:
  - Sharing your toys or keeping them all to yourself?
  - Asking what they would like to play or telling them what to play?
- 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?
- Has there ever been a time when family or friends had to sleep over because of a snow storm? Or they were moving?
- 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, like you belong?

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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.

### Matching Game | What Belongs Together?

#### Supplies:

- Category and Matching Cards
- pencils

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.

To make all of this more challenging, include only half of the image on the matching cards.

If there is extra time in Small Group, Campers can pick a few matching cards and draw the other half of the object.

#### 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

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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.

### 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.

The Bible tells how Jesus helped two blind men see again. They were shouting for Jesus and when others told them to be quiet, Jesus asked them, "What do you want me to do for you?" (Point to verse 33) "We want our sight".

Jesus had compassion on them. He felt sorry for them, so He touched their eyes and immediately they could see.

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Jesus loved it when children played around Him as He taught.

The Bible says, 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.** | John 4:9-11NIRV

### 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.

How about the next time you join a new club, a team, or class and no one welcomes you in? What can you do?



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!

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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. Help us to love others just like You love us. Amen

**WE BELONG TOGETHER!**