

# OPENING SESSION | DAY 5



<b>Key Question</b>	Where do I belong?
<b>Life Application</b>	You belong in your family and with great friends
<b>Bottom Line</b>	Created to belong and help others feel the same
<b>Basic Truth</b>	I should treat others the way I want to be treated

## **DAY 5 | With Jesus, you always belong** **Are you a friend who helps others feel like they belong?**

### **Supplies:**

- VERA's Playbill
- Canva Animation of words: Good Samaritan
- Her roll of paper that has every Camper and Crew Leaders' name on it
- Video: zoomed in view of Campers' names on VERA's roll of paper
- Clothes for Jesus, Zacchaeus, and crowd people
- tree cardboard with a ladder behind it (Already on stage for Campers to see when they walk in)

**Host:** Good morning VISTO! (Hold out V-shaped fingers. Wait for a response from the Campers)

Today's the day! Showcase Day! (jazz hands) I am so happy you are here today.

This week of camp has been amazing!

### **Take Action Check in from Day 4**

VERA runs onstage with her Playbill, a giant pencil, and the roll of Camper names under tucked under her arm.

### **VERA:**

Hi, everyone! (Let Campers say, Hi, VERA!) Sets roll of Camper names down on the stage.

### **Host:**

Hi VERA.

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**VERA:**

I got so many words! VERA waves her Playbill in the air.

Cue Canva animation of the words: Good Samaritan

**Host:**

Wow! Let me see.

Host peeks at VERA's Playbill and whispers

Do you think the Campers have that many?

**VERA:** whispering

Let's ask them!

**Host:**

Let's see who found the most words from the letters in Good Samaritan. Stand up if you found one word.

Keep standing if you found five words.

Ten words.

Fifteen words.

Keep going until a winner is left standing

Clap for the winner

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**Host:**

How many words did you find, VERA? (Compare VERA's number of words with the Camper's)

**Host:**

Amazing! Now, I'd love to hear the words you created from the letters that spell GOOD SAMARITAN?

(Call on Campers to shout out the words they found.)

Everyone, give yourselves a pat on the back in celebration of doing your Take Action. (Make arm clapping motion for Take Action)

**VERA:**

Guess what else I brought with me, \_\_Host's name\_\_!

**Host:**

I'm not sure. What do you have?

**VERA:**

Autographs! Autographs! (jumping up and down)

There are some VERY SPECIAL people who have signed my roll of paper. I have \_\_#\_\_ of signatures of people who all belong here at VISTO. Want to see them?

**Host:**

O, yes! I do!

VERA slowly unrolls her paper to show the names to the Host.

Cue video of Campers' names

**VERA:**

Isn't that amazing! What a special group of people here at VISTO this week!

**Host:**

I agree, VERA! We all belong together!

**WE BELONG TOGETHER!**

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## Review of the Week's Truths

### Host:

Hasn't it been pretty awesome learning about BELONGING and how you belong in your family and with great friends? (Open hands to point to all of the Campers in the room.)

You belong when you welcome others in and when you care for others in selfless ways. Who feels like they belong?! (Host raises their hand to encourage Campers to raise theirs.)

### VERA:

I belong! I love it here at VISTO! But now it's time for me to go. Bye, everyone! VERA exits.

### Host:

Bye, VERA!

Campers, listen closely. Here's what I want you to always remember. (Host leans forward as if about to tell a secret.)

Maybe you join a new club or sports team and know no one. Perhaps when you arrived here on Monday, you knew no one. It takes courage and initiative to say, "Hi" and to meet people, but you might meet your next best friend. Remember that you belong in your family and with great friends. You belong when you welcome others in and when you care for others in selfless ways.

## Bible Story – Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10

Cue Bible Story Time SFX

### Supplies for Bible Story:

Clothes for Jesus, Zacchaeus, and crowds people  
cardboard tree with a ladder behind it

### Characters:

Jesus  
Zacchaeus  
Crowd of 3-4 people

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**Host:**

Now, I always loved a story from the Bible of a man who felt like he didn't belong. When I feel like I don't belong, I think of this story. (Host thumbs through Bible to Luke 19.)

He wanted so much to belong that he climbed a tree! Who has climbed a tree before?

(Host holds up their Bible) What is the Bible? The Bible is...(Wait for the Campers to shout) TRUTH!

**Narrator:**

One day, as Jesus was traveling through a town called Jericho, a crowd of people followed Him.

Character Jesus and Crowd walk in from behind the Campers and Jesus says to the Campers as if they are the people in Jericho.

**Jesus:**

Hey, everybody! Jericho is a nice town. You are nice people.

**Narrator:**

A rich man named Zacchaeus wanted to meet this Jesus. So when Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming through town, he thought...

**Zacchaeus:**

Maybe today is the day I can meet Jesus.

**Narrator:**

Now, I already told you that Zacchaeus was rich. What I haven't told you is that he is a tax collector. No one liked tax collectors because they took money from the people.

Zacchaeus was also short. So, when the crowd surrounded Jesus, he found it really hard to see Jesus. He stood on his tiptoes and stretched to be as tall as he could, but it wasn't tall enough.

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Zacchaeus stretches and stands on his tip toes while looking off into the distance for someone as the Narrator says this.

**Zacchaeus:**

I know! I will climb that sycamore tree. Points to cardboard tree. That will make me tall enough to see Jesus.

Jesus and His crowd of 3-4 followers finish walking down the aisle among the Campers and up on the stage.

**Narrator:**

So Zacchaeus climbed the tree and sure enough, Jesus came walking down the path toward Zacchaeus. When he got to the tree, he stopped, looked up, and said...

**Jesus:**

Zacchaeus, hurry up! Come down from that tree. I want to come to your house today.

**Zacchaeus:**

To my house? Puts hand on his chest and looks around in surprise. Be right down!

**Narrator:**

Can you imagine how surprised and excited Zacchaeus felt? Jesus was coming to his house!

Jesus and Zacchaeus do a handshake.

**Narrator:**

Now the crowd around Jesus began to grumble.

**Crowd:**

Zacchaeus! Jesus is going to Zacchaeus' house?! What's He thinking?  
That rich, short, tax collector?!  
He's just takes all my money for taxes!

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## Narrator:

Jesus cared for and welcomed everyone. He didn't send anyone away. Jesus is the best example for welcoming others in and helping them feel like they belong. I want you to know today that with Jesus, you always belong.

For Deeper Reflection of how Jesus made everyone feel like they belong, reference Matthew 19:13-15, Matthew 20:29-34, Matthew 22:23-46.

## Host:

And we know this story is true because the BIBLE IS....

Campers respond "Truth"

I love this story about Zacchaeus. It helps me to remember that with Jesus, I always belong.

Call & Response **WE ARE KNOWN, HEAR OUR SONG. ALL TOGETHER, WE BELONG!**

I want to know: Are you the kind of friend who helps others feel like they belong by how you care, encourage, smile at them, and welcome them in?

Or do you sometimes ignore, or not say hello because you don't feel like it?

Cue Question of the Day Animation and SFX

This might be our last day of VISTO this week, but will you look for selfless ways throughout the day to be kind, helping, encouraging, so that everyone feels like they belong?

Call & Response **WE ARE KNOWN, HEAR OUR SONG. ALL TOGETHER, WE BELONG!**

**WE BELONG TOGETHER!**