

# BELONGING OPENING SESSION | DAY 1



**Key Question** How do I belong?

**Life Application** I can create spaces of belonging by seeing others the way God sees them.

**Bottom Line** I am created to belong and help others feel the same.

**Basic Truth** I should treat others the way I want to be treated

## DAY 1: YOU BELONG IN YOUR FAMILY

### What do I like about my family?

#### Supplies:

- Projector
- 2 playbills
- Doodly video cued and ready

**HOST:** Good morning! Welcome to VISTO Performing Arts Camp! My name is \_\_\_\_\_. When I say VISTO!!, you say VISTO!! (Hold out V-shaped fingers.)

We are so excited that you are here! Some of you may recognize each other, and some of you may not know anyone in this room...YET! We can't wait to get to know YOU this week and for you to make new friends, too!

This week is all about YOU! (Host leans in toward Campers) Yes, You! We will be talking about how YOU are special, unique, and important.

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

**Host:** Now, this week wouldn't be possible without the amazing VISTO Creative Team and VISTO Crew Leaders. I would love to introduce them to you now! VISTO Staff to the stage, please, so everyone can meet you.

You are important to us and we want to know more about you. So, I will ask each of you a get-to-know you question.

- How many siblings do you have in your family?
- Tell us one thing you like about your family?
- Do you have pets in your family, and if so, what are your pets' names?
- What do you and your family like to snack on when it's movie night?
- What was the best vacation you have taken with your family? Where did you go?

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## Host:

Thank you for your fun answers. We are so happy that you are our VISTO Staff.

This fabulous VISTO Staff will be singing, acting, and dancing right alongside you. They will travel with you from station to station all day long.

On Friday, they will join you in presenting & performing in VISTO's Showcase (jazz hands) where your friends and family come to see all you learn this week. It will be a magical performance!

If you have a question or need help any time this week, the amazing VISTO Staff is here for you. They want this it be the best week ever!

## Lights Camera Action Duel

**Host:** Now, let's get to know each other. You can find one person or a bunch of people just like you in these questions. When I call a category, find someone in your Crew who matches your answer. Then play Rock, Paper, Scissor, but here at VISTO we say Lights, Camera, Action. Ready?

### Find someone who:

- has the same number of siblings as you do.
- shares a bedroom with a sibling or has their own room.
- whose family lives in the country with farms all around or in town.
- has pets or no pets at all.
- watches more movies at home or more movies at the theatre
- buys candy at the theatre or popcorn at the theatre
- has been to VISTO before or this is their first time

**Host:** Wow, Campers. Thank you so much for playing along with us.

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

**Host:** Each of our families are different, special, and unique. Would you agree? And we know for some of us in this room, we may not live with our family (mom, dad, grandma) but live with another definition of "family". And that's ok!

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Did you know that your family isn't just who lives in your house? Your family has many generations to it. You have great, great, great, great grandparents who lived many years ago. You may have never met them, but they are still part of your family.

Have you ever wondered who was the very first family that lived on the earth?

Vesper comes running on stage with two playbills in their hand.

**VESPER:** Family! Did someone say family?

**Host:** Hi, Vesper. Campers, this is our friend, Vesper. Go ahead and say, "Hi, Vesper!"

**VESPER:** Hi, everyone! I just got back from a trip to New York City with my family! We saw two different Broadway shows, and it was so cool. My cousin Vera and her sister were there too, and Vera told me all about VISTO! I am so excited to be at VISTO this week. We're going to learn songs and dances, just like all the actors on Broadway! But it gets to be with all of you awesome campers instead.

**Host:** Wow! What a memorable vacation your family had. I'm glad you had so much fun, Vesper.

**VESPER:** Yes, it was awesome. I'm going to go make a list of all the cool shows I want to see on our next vacation. Bye, everyone!

Vesper exits

**Host:** Well, Campers, I have a real-life story to share with you about the very FIRST family that lived on the earth. They also became the BIGGEST family ever on the earth. Listen Up!

Bible Story -|The Biggest Family | the People of Israel

Host puts Bible in hand

Cue Bible Story Time SFX

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## **Host:**

Our story comes from the Bible....

The Bible is full of stories, letters, and poems that help us learn more about God and His son, Jesus. It is God's word and it is truth.

When I say, What is the Bible? The Bible is...you say, TRUTH! Let's try it. What is the Bible? The Bible is... (TRUTH!)

Here at VISTO, we celebrate that God is the one true God who loves you and me very much.

Now before we watch this video, I have a challenge for you. We are learning about a big family, and they do lots of things together. So, when I say, "the first family on earth kept getting bigger," I want all of us to act out the activities that they do together!

(ask campers for actions for living together, travelling together, eating together, planting and harvesting food, and taking care of animals).

Let's practice. The first family on earth kept getting bigger! They lived together, traveled together, ate together, planted and harvested crops and food together, and took care of animals together.

Get ready, Action!

Cue animated Doodly video

## **Narrator:**

God created everything, including you and me. He made the first man named Adam and the first woman named Eve.

(Reference Genesis 1:26-27 and Genesis 2:21-23)

Adam and Eve had two sons named Cain and Abel. This became the first family to live on earth. (Reference Genesis 4:1)

Adam and Eve went on to have many more children. Soon they had grandchildren.

(Reference Genesis 5:1-2)

Seth, Enosh, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah to name a few.

(Reference Genesis 5:3-32)

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**This first family on the earth kept getting bigger.** They lived together, traveled together, ate together, planted and harvested crops and food together, and took care of animals together.

Our big family continued with Noah when he had three sons.

You might know the story of Noah and the ark. (Reference Genesis 6-9)

More children were born, and then there was Abram. (Reference Genesis 11:10-12)

God told Abram that He would become a great nation. (Reference Genesis 12:3)

God asked Abram to “Look at the sky and count the stars.” He would have as many children as there were stars in the sky. God changed Abram’s name to Abraham. (Reference Genesis 15:1-6 and Genesis 17)

Abraham had a son named Isaac. (Reference Genesis 21:1-7)

**This first family on the earth kept getting bigger.** They lived together, traveled together, ate together, planted and harvested crops and food together, and took care of animals together.

When Isaac and his wife Rebekah married, they had twin sons named Jacob and Esau. (Reference Genesis 25:19-26)

Jacob married Rachel, and God promised Jacob:

“I will give you children like the dust of the earth that can’t be counted.” Genesis 28:13-15  
NIRV

Wow! Abraham was told that he would have generations of children as many as the stars in the sky, and now Jacob is told that he will have generations of children as many as the dust of the earth. So many children that they can’t be counted.

You know it! **The first big family on the earth kept getting bigger.** They lived together, traveled together, ate together, planted and harvested crops and food together, and took care of animals together.

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Jacob went on to have twelve sons (Reference Genesis 35:23-26), and God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

In all of this time that **the first family on the earth got bigger and bigger**, they lived together, traveled together, ate together, planted and harvested crops and food, and took care of animals together.

They were a family who did everything together. They belonged together as the family of Israel.

## Host:

Wow! What a story about the first family ever! A family named Israel. They might not have been the perfect family, just like you might feel like your family isn't perfect. But God created families to give us a place to belong, because He wants people to love and care for each other. You belong with your family, and we all belong together as part of God's family, too.

**I want to know, do you think your family is like the family of Israel? Every family is different, so follow along with the actions if you do these things:**

- (action for eating together) Do you and your family eat meals together?
- (action for travelling together) Do you and your family ride in the car together?
- (pretend you're using a video game controller) Do you and your family play video games together?
- (blow out birthday candles) Do you and your family love to celebrate birthday's together?

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

As you go about your day, I want you to think of your answer to this question:

**What do I like about my family?**

**Cue Question of the Day Animation**

WE BELONG TOGETHER

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To wrap up our story time together this morning, we're going to pray as one big VISTO family. Raise your hand if you've heard of prayer before!

Prayer is talking to God. God hears us no matter where we are, what we're doing, or who we're doing it with! We don't have to be scared to pray, or feel like we need the perfect words to talk to God. God wants to hear from us about everything in our lives, whether we are happy, sad, feeling like we belong, or feeling lonely. He loves hearing our prayers, and He loves talking to us! Prayer can be a time for us to be quiet and listen to God, too.

Let's pray to God now for our day and thank Him for our families.

Dear God, we thank you for bringing all our campers and staff together into a big VISTO family this morning! You have created us to belong, and you've given each of us families that we belong with - thank you! Help us to have a great day and to reflect on what we love about our families today. Amen.

## VISTO VIRTUES | Behaviour Expectations

### Cue VISTO Virtues Animation

**Host:** Now lend me your ear, amazing Campers! We have important rules to help this be an awesome week of Camp.

Cue Animation

#### 1. Be Respectful and Kind

At VISTO Camp, we want everyone to feel safe. No bullying or unkind comments are allowed. There will be actions taken if you are involved in any bullying.

At VISTO Camp, we're excited to see you shine in kindness toward everyone, especially since we all belong together! Show a new friend that they belong with you by welcoming them to eat lunch with you. Share kind words and cheer each other on.

Cue Animation

WE BELONG TOGETHER!

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## 2. Go Outside with Permission

We have an awesome outdoor space to play; however, we go outside only when given permission. VISTO Camp is all about sticking together! VISTO Staff must be with you at all times when outside. Stay within the boundaries, please. No wandering off.

Cue Animation

## 3. Keep Your Hands to Yourself

There are amazing, magical things around VISTO Camp for us to explore but only when invited to do so. Look with your eyes and don't touch until you are invited to. Keep your hands to yourself, even with friends and family. This is how we keep everyone safe. Keep distractions, toys, and phones away in your bag so you don't miss all the amazing things here at VISTO.

Cue Animation

## 4. Dive In!

We invite you to jump into activities and learn with enthusiasm!! We want you to feel courageous to try new things and to learn about yourself and how you are amazing and wonderful.

Sometimes new things can be scary, or we can be scared to make a mistake. But you belong, even if a new experience requires a lot of bravery or if you make a mistake. And you won't be the only one singing, dancing, and acting this week. Our entire VISTO Staff will be participating with you and cheering you on, so let's do this!