

BELONGING OPENING SESSION | DAY 2



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 2 | YOU BELONG WITH GREAT FRIENDS

What makes me a great friend?

Supplies:

- Bible story tableau friends (Crew Leaders)
- a Bible for a Crew Leader
- a lunch bag for a Crew Leader
- a few dollar bills for Crew Leaders
- notebook
- giant pencil
- electric scooter
- VISTO bell

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

So happy you are here today! We have so much fun in store today as we talk more about BELONGING.

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

Yesterday, we learned about how you belong in your family no matter what that looks like. Today, we are talking about friends and how you belong with great friends. You know, feeling like you belong is important. Everyone wants to belong.

OPENING GAME | FREEZE DANCE

Let's start our morning by playing a fun game about belonging.

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- Everyone stand up
- When the music starts, break out in dance moves.
- When the music suddenly stops, you must quickly link arms with another person from camp in any section. Now you belong together.
- However, the last to link up is out of the game.

When the music starts playing again, you unlink and start dancing. Got it? Are you ready?
Play the Camp song for the game music.

Host:

What great dance moves you have, Campers! Nice job linking up. You belong together.

Connection to BELONGING Theme

Host:

Having good friends is important and you belong with great friends.

Vesper enters the rehearsal hall scootering with their head down, drawing in a notebook as they enter. They suddenly trip and fall.

Crew Leader rushes to Vesper's side and helps her up.

Host: Vesper, are you OK? (If Campers want to say, "Hi, Vesper." give room for them to say Hello.) Are you hurt?

VESPER: I'm OK. Hi, everyone! Thanks, Crew Leader, for helping me up. I guess I shouldn't scooter and draw at the same time.

Host: What were you drawing?

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VESPER: I was drawing a bunch of things that show what makes a good friend. I drew a cookie because a good friend should bake cookies. I LOVE chocolate chip cookies. I also drew a birthday gift because good friends think of others and buy BIG Birthday gifts. I drew a paintbrush too because a good friend should do art and crafts with me. And I drew a big heart because a good friend should love their friends!

Vesper goes on and on with their list.

Host: That is quite a list, Vesper. I was just talking with the Campers about how having good friends is important. They belong with great friends.

VESPER: Yes, they do!

Host: I know about a group of friends who were kind and thought of others just like the friend you wrote about. Want to hear about them, Vesper?

VESPER: Yes! I love stories about great friends.

Vesper sits down with the Campers

Bible Story - The Believers Share Everything (Early Church) (Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:32)

Cue Bible Story Time SFX

As the Host shares the Bible story, mini tableaux played by the Crew Leaders happen at the same time. Crew Leaders begin wandering around the stage as if street people.

Host: (Host flips through the Bible to find Acts 2.) Here in the Bible... and what is the Bible? TRUTH!

It tells of friends who loved God and wanted to be kind and helpful to others. Jesus returned to Heaven, and after that his friends and followers had an important choice to make. They could go back to living separate lives, or they could continue living the way Jesus taught them to live.

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So they began meeting together. There were men, women, children, families, friends, and neighbours. They weren't all the same, but they shared one thing in common- they loved God and wanted to follow Him.

They became a community. They spent time together, learned together, celebrated together, and helped each other through hard times.

They encouraged each other

Wandering Crew Leaders suddenly pair up and give
each other high fives.

They prayed for each other

Wandering Crew Leaders suddenly pair up and pray together.

They read the Bible together and reminded each other of all the things Jesus did and said.

Wandering Crew Leaders suddenly pick up a Bible laid around
the stage and pair up to read together.

They shared meals together, gathering in homes and spending time as friends.

Wandering Crew Leaders suddenly pick up their lunches
and all sit together in one big circle as if having a picnic.

When someone was struggling, they didn't ignore them. They looked for ways to help. They shared what they had so that nobody would be left out or forgotten.

Wandering Crew Leaders suddenly pair up and one pretends
to pull money out of their pocket to give to the other.

Because of the way they cared for one another, more and more people wanted to be part of their community. They saw that these people truly loved each other.

And every day, their friendships grew stronger as they spent time together and followed God's example.

VESPER: (stands up) Wow! That is so cool. I guess I need to draw some more things that make a great friend. I should add that they pray with me, read the Bible with me, and help others.

Host: Those are three great things to add to your drawings, Vesper!

(Vesper leaves)

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Campers, you belong with great friends. You know what that means? That means choosing good friends and being a great friend. God made us to be good friends, and Jesus is an example of a good friend; He loved everyone and showed his friends that he cared about them in lots of ways. It can be hard to know how to be a good friend, but we can learn by looking at Jesus and by surrounding ourselves with good friends that care about us and build us up!

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

What makes me a great friend?

Cue Question of the Day Animation and SFX

Just like the good friends that we learned about in this story, we're going to pray together! Think of a good friend that you are grateful for and keep them in mind while we pray.

God, thank you for the good friends you have given us. Help us to learn how to be good friends to each other, just like the friends in the Bible were good friends, and like Jesus is a good friend! And help us especially to be good friends to each other today at VISTO. Amen.

VISTO VIRTUES - Behavior Expectations

Host:

Now, before we rotate, let's remember our VISTO Virtues and how we can be a good friend to all those around us. Everyone say "VISTOOO!" (Let Campers respond with VISTOOO!)

Following our VISTO Virtues is an important thing to do today to help others.

1. We are superstars at being respectful and kind. No bullying is allowed. We can be good friends by being respectful and kind!
2. Go Outside with Permission and with a VISTO Staff
3. Keep Your Hands to Yourself and distractions away
4. Dive In! Take part in all of the activities and have fun!