

BELONGING OPENING SESSION | DAY 3



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 3: YOU BELONG WHEN YOU WELCOME OTHERS IN

What makes me feel welcome?

Supplies:

- one minute timer
- one painted welcome banner
- Elisha, the woman's, and her husband's clothing
- a small bag for Elisha to carry over his shoulder as if he is traveling
- a table
- three chairs
- three plates
- three cups
- a water pitcher
- bread
- grapes
- bed, sheet, pillow for the bedroom
- table, amp, chair for the bedroom
- SHUNEM MOVERS (label hats for Crew Leaders + mustaches)

To emphasize welcoming others in, today is a clapping day, meaning every time campers come in to a new station, crew leaders clap and cheer. "Whoohoo! Olio is here! Whoohoo! _camper's name_ is here!" This will tie into the Take Action,

Carry this idea through Thursday and Friday.

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Host: Hooray! Today's Day 3 of VISTO!

Hold out V-shaped fingers. Wait for a response from the Campers

This whole week is about BELONGING. Your family is important no matter what it looks like. You belong in your family and you belong with great friends. Give high fives to all the friends around you.

Today, we will learn how you belong when you welcome others in.

WE ARE KNOWN, HEAR OUR SONG. ALL TOGETHER, WE BELONG!

Acting Game | Act It Out!

Need Vesper's Take Action clapper
Play background music during game

Host:

Let's play a game of Welcome Others In – Act It Out!

Grab a partner with someone in your Crew.

Stand facing each other. Spread out around the room so that you have space to move and act.

Now, between you and your partner, you have one minute to make up a handshake.

Cue a one minute timer such as Minute-to-Win-It timer

Got your handshakes ready?

Now, I'm going to tell a situation and you will act it out together using your handshake.

Here's our first one:

You see each other at the grocery store. You feel shy, but want to say, Hi. Act out how you will say, Hi! to each other at the grocery store with your new handshake. ACTION!

Allow campers to act it out

You make friends feel important when you wave, shout Hi!, or talk to them.

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One of you got a balloon at the fair but it popped. You feel too embarrassed to ask for a new one. Get a new balloon together and then handshake. ACTION!

Allow campers to act it out

Sometimes, we just need the support of a friend to help us feel brave.

You see someone eating all alone at lunch. Act out how you would introduce yourself and sit down to eat your lunch with them. ACTION!

Allow campers to act it out

How special you make someone feel by joining them for lunch.

Host: Great job, Campers! Have a seat.

Sometimes we might feel shy to say Hi! Sometimes we might forget someone's name. If you are willing to be brave and say, Hi! you will be a great friend who makes people feel welcome and special.

Vesper walks onto the stage carrying a massive banner saying
"Welcome to VISTO!" in paint (almost falling out of their
hands)

Host: Hey, Vesper, let me help you.

VESPER: Hi, everyone! ("Hi Vesper")

Host:

What are you doing with this, Vesper? What does it say?

VESPER: This is a welcome banner that I painted for VISTO's front entrance! It says, "Welcome to VISTO!". I was inspired by us talking about belonging and spent all night painting it because I thought it would help people feel welcomed.

***Note:** Vesper's welcome banner goes to the front entrance for the rest of the week

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Host: That's special, Vesper. You're right, this will make VISTO's entrance feel very welcoming!

VESPER: I am going to put it up at the front door now. See you, Campers! Bye everyone!

Vesper exits

Host: You know, there are lots of other ways that we can welcome others in and make them feel safe and happy to be our friends. Does anyone have any examples of ways they welcome others in? (Take a few responses)

I know of a story in the Bible of a woman who was a good friend. Let's hear how she made a man named Elisha feel welcome, special, and like he belonged.

(Host thumbs through Bible to 2 Kings 4)

What is the Bible? The Bible is (Wait for the Campers to shout, TRUTH!)

Bible Story | Elisha & the Woman 2 Kings 4:8-17

Cue Bible Story Time SFX

Characters:

- Elisha
- Woman
- Woman's husband
- Narrator
- SHUNEM MOVERS (who bring in set props: bed, table, chair, lamp)

Narrator:

The Bible tells of a man named Elisha.

Elisha walks in among the Campers as if travelling
and up to the stage.

Each time Elisha passed through a town called Shunem, an important woman invited him into her home to eat food.

Woman waves to Elisha and motions for him to come
over to her table. She hands him a cup of water.

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They shared a meal.

They sit down and she hands him grapes.

Then Elisha traveled on his way. When he passed through Shunem again, she invited him in to eat.

Elisha: Thank you so much for welcoming me into your home again. The meal was delicious. I'll see you again soon. God bless you. Goodbye.

They get up and she waves goodbye to Elisha. He exits the stage.

Husband enters stage

Narrator: Eventually the woman said to her husband....

Woman and Husband talk together by the dining table.

Woman: I think this man who keeps passing by our home is a holy man of God. We should make a little room for him upstairs so that when he passes by again, he can stay and rest.

Narrator: That's exactly what the woman and her husband did. They made a little room for Elisha to sleep in each time he traveled by.

SHUNEM MOVERS: (label hats) Two Crew Leaders move in the bed, table, chair, and lamp

Narrator: The Bible doesn't tell us the woman's name.

Elisha walks back on stage and snuggles in the bed.

But it does tell us this story of how she helped Elisha. This make us think that what she did to welcome Elisha was important.

Host: When you welcome others in and make them feel special, you do it for God. God knows that we all belong to Him, and He knows that we belong to each other! He wants us to help each other know that, too.

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Elisha gets out of bed, puts his bag on his shoulder, waves as if the woman is off in the distance, and exits.

Maybe you've experienced a time where you didn't feel welcome... it's hard to feel like we don't belong. But we always belong with God, and God wants us to include everyone. You belong when you welcome others in.

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

What makes me feel welcome?

Cue Question of the Day Animation and SFX

Let's pray this morning for God's help in welcoming others in!

Dear God, thank you that we are always welcome to come to you. We always belong to you, even when others might not make us feel welcome. Help us to welcome others in and include them, just like we feel welcomed by others! Amen.