

SMALL GROUP | DAY 3

WHY DOES JESUS WANT ME AT HIS PARTY?



Bible

Ephesians 2:8-10 - "God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it. We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do."

Supplies

- Bible
- Playdoh
- "Someone Special" print-outs for Playbill (1 per camper)
- Hula hoops and tape to create spaces for "Everybody Fits"
- Markers and pencils

Digging Deeper

We learned this morning about how Matthew was invited in by Jesus, even though he had made mistakes and not everyone liked him. He was so joyful because of this that he threw a party for Jesus and invited all of his friends!

Even when the Pharisees pointed out that Jesus was partying with people who they thought didn't belong, Jesus stayed with Matthew because he knew that everyone needs his joy and love.

The Pharisees were religious leaders who thought that because they tried hard not to make mistakes, they didn't need Jesus's joy in their lives. But there is nothing we can do or have that will be the same as knowing Jesus - he brings perfect joy, and he wants everyone to know him.

Ephesians 2 says that God created us to belong to Jesus, and that we are his creation - he invites everyone to his party.



**Knowing Jesus is worth
celebrating.**

START THE PARTY! | JOY

DREAM

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Activity – Everyone Fits

Designate a space in the room using hula hoops, floor markers, or taped boundaries. Start with a large space that easily fits the whole crew inside. Explain that the challenge is to make sure everyone fits in the designated area—no one can be left out. After campers successfully fit inside, gradually make the space smaller and smaller, encouraging them to work together to find ways for everyone to fit. Continue until the group can no longer fit safely.

Activity – Playdoh Party

During the discussion, hand out playdoh to each camper. Allow them to mold different items that they would want at a party (balloons, presents, etc.) while discussing.

Discussion Questions

- If you threw a party, who would you invite?
- What can make someone feel included? What can make someone feel left out?
- Have you ever felt left out or uninvited?
- How do you think Matthew felt after Jesus invited him to follow?

Real Talk

- What makes you special to Jesus?
- Is there anything you can do to earn an invitation from Jesus?
- What are some ways people try to prove that they are “good enough” for Jesus or his love?
- How can you follow Jesus’s example and invite everyone in?

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TODAY'S TAKE ACTION



Learn the name of one new person today - someone you see tonight, on your way home or even another camper from VISTO. Ask them one thing they think is special about them, then ask them to sign your Playbill! Be sure to bring it back tomorrow to share with your crew leader.

A new connection...





START THE PARTY!

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for loving each of us and inviting us to find joy in you, even though we sometimes feel like we don't belong. Help us to make others know that they belong by inviting them in and sharing joy with them.

You have made each of us special, and we thank you for including us in Jesus's joy! Amen.

START THE PARTY! | JOY