



Date: _____
Series: **We Are In God's Family** (Spring)
Year 2, Lesson 58

Welcome Others Into God's Family

Bible Event: Mark 9:36-37

Take Home Point: *WELCOME OTHERS – *Come into God's family.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus encourages us to share him with others.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn how important it is to welcome others to church and to the community. When we show kindness and welcome others, the Bible says that it is just like welcoming Jesus himself. Kids will take home the point: ***WELCOME OTHERS – *Come into God's family.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: List a video, if available.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Illustrating a Concept

Using objects or props, a concept is illustrated that presents to the children a vivid image of God's truth.

As children enter or are seated, distribute a sticker with Jesus' face to each child. As you hand each child the sticker, say,

Trust Jesus and he will live in your heart.

Help each child place the sticker over his or her heart. Begin the presentation once all children have received stickers and are seated.

Presenter begins (wearing Jesus sticker over heart):

This sticker reminds us that when we say, "Jesus, I want you in my heart," he's right there with us. All we need to do is trust Jesus and ask him to be there.

Have a helper pull a "Welcome Wagon" onto stage. It should be filled with small trinkets such as stickers, bracelets, small candies, etc. Consult Oriental Trading Company, if desired, or empty out junk closets.

Look at this wagon filled with goodies! I know what this is. It's a "Welcome Wagon." I know how this works. It has goodies in it for you to make you feel welcome here. Who would like a small gift to help them feel welcome?

Invite children, in a single file line, to come onto stage to receive a gift from the "Welcome Wagon." As you hand each child a trinket, say

I welcome you in Jesus' name.

Then have them return to their seats with their "Welcome Wagon" gift. Encourage children to set the gift in their lap for a moment to listen as the presenter finishes the lesson.

Does everyone feel like they are welcome here? Do you feel like you are loved here? Even when there isn't a special "Welcome Wagon" present, we want you to always feel like you belong. The "Welcome Wagon" is just one way to show you that you are welcome here.

Do you know what the Bible says about welcoming people? The Bible says that if you do this for little ones, it is just like welcoming Jesus! So, did I welcome Jesus here today? Yes, I did! You see, Jesus is right inside all who believe. So when I welcome you, it's just like welcoming him.

Do you think that you could welcome Jesus? I bet you can. Did you know that when you do, you are also welcoming God, the Father?

What are some ways that we can welcome people who are new to our group? How can we make them feel special and also welcome Jesus at the same time?

Take suggestions. Include giving a small gift, sharing a snack, helping to play, sitting together, asking their name, being a friend, etc.

Great ideas. Always remember: *WELCOME OTHERS – *Come into God's family.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Give each child two graham cracker rectangles (one half of a graham cracker each.) Let them frost one of the crackers. Any color frosting will do. Place the other graham cracker on top of the frosted one. Hold the crackers so they look like a door. Pull one cracker apart from the other as if opening the “door.” Explain to children that opening the “door” of the snack reminds us of welcoming and inviting someone in with us.

Drama Zone: Provide miscellaneous dress-up clothes. Allow children to dress up as adults or children and practice inviting each other to church or welcoming others in Jesus’ name.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to practice making others feel welcome. Have them ask each other, “What can I do to make you feel at home?”

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story from today’s Bible event.

Craft Zone: Copy the invitation card template and let children decorate as desired. Provide crayons, markers and any other supplies available. Let children take these home to invite friends to church.

Play Zone: Create a “Partner Table.” Set up a variety of puzzles and games for children to play together. In order to play at the table, a child must invite another child to come play and they should come to the table together.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books.

Music Zone: “Big House”

Coloring Zone: “Welcome Others” coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes onto stage proudly wearing a brightly colored friendship bracelet. The presenter comments on her bracelet and she is very excited to explain where she got it. Judy visited her grandma's church last weekend. She was very scared because she didn't know anyone there. But when she got there, a nice lady took her to meet a girl her age named Rachel. Rachel was there for Kids Church and helped her a lot! She showed her where to sit down, where to put her offering, and helped her get her snack. Judy started to feel at home in no time, and before she left, Rachel and the other kids at the church gave her this friendship bracelet to help her feel welcome and to invite her to come back anytime!

The presenter thinks that is wonderful. He is very glad Judy felt so welcomed at her grandma's church. He asks Judy if she knows that when Rachel and those people welcomed her, it was just like welcoming someone else. The presenter asks the kids if they know who. Jesus! And when Jesus is welcomed, it is also just like welcoming God the Father who sent him. Judy wants to help welcome Jesus by welcoming new kids to Kids Church here. The presenter thinks that's a great idea.

The presenter reminds the kids: ***WELCOME OTHERS – Come into God's family.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- Jesus face sticker
- a wagon
- a sign that says "Welcome Wagon"
- small gifts or trinkets – one per child

Action Zones:

Snack:

- graham crackers
- frosting (any flavor or color)

Drama:

- dress-up clothes

Craft:

- invitation card template
- crayons or markers
- other available decorations of your choice
- Jesus or cross stickers

Play:

- puzzles
- games

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- "Big House"

Puppet:

- various puppets

Color:

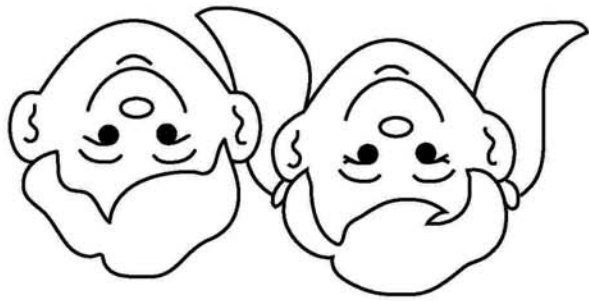
- coloring page
- crayons and markers
- plain paper

Closing Worship:

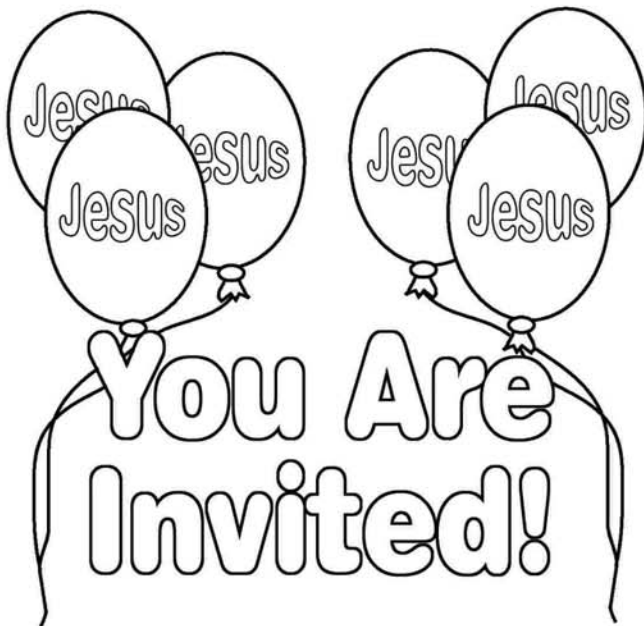
- Judy, the puppet
- brightly colored friendship bracelet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books



Welcome
to
Church



Join
God's
Family

Name:
