**Sunday School and Youth Division**

[In the name of........](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2020/107-may-june-2020-a/proper-8)

**Jeremiah 28.5-9; Psalm 89.1-4,15-18; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42**

**Story:**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Wherever you go, if people welcome you, then they are welcoming me, too. And if they welcome me, then they are also welcoming God." He continued, "If someone welcomes a prophet and welcomes them because they are a prophet, then they will receive the same reward as a prophet. If someone welcomes a good person and welcomes them because they are good, then they will receive the same reward as a good person. And if someone helps one of these little ones – if they give them only a cup of cold water because they are one of my followers – then they will certainly be rewarded."

Jesus gives us a good description of this in Luke 10 too

Story link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K11wyOFuwvk>

Welcoming others 10 mins W E

Welcome people with words they can understand.

**You will need:** paper, pencils/pens, access to a translation website or dictionary, sticky tac.

* Which languages do you know? Write down different words for ‘Hello’, e.g. Bonjour, Hola, Ciao, one word on each sheet of paper.
* Help the children look up some other languages and write down other translations for ‘Hello’.
* Stick the pieces of paper displaying the words around your space and encourage the children to practise greeting each other in the different languages.
* Discuss how we could welcome someone who speaks another language if we can’t speak that language, e.g. wave, smile.

**Make**

Welcome card  15 mins W E A

Design a simple card to give to welcome somebody who is new to your church or community

**You will need:** a card for each child ([template](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/21000/welcome_door.pdf)), crayons and pens or pencils.

* Give each child a card template, folded in half. Encourage the children to decorate the front door on the card to make it look welcoming and attractive.
* Ask the children to write a message of welcome inside the card for someone who is new to your church.
* You might like to keep the cards to have them ready to give to new people who come to your church.

**Pray**

Active praying 5 mins E S

Consider how you can welcome people and be welcomed.

**You will need**: three small building blocks for each child (in three different colours).

1. Give each child three different-coloured building bricks.
2. Ask them to hold each one in their hands in turn and pray in silence for:
   * one person who has been kind or welcoming to them in the past week;
   * one person they have helped or welcomed in the past week;
   * one person they know who needs help or to feel welcomed.
3. Ask the children to join their prayers together by putting the bricks they are holding into one shape and join it onto another person’s bricks.

Say a prayer e.g.  
Father God, we are welcomed in the name of Jesus.  
Help us to welcome others in your name  
so that we all join together as your family. **Amen**.

Dressing-up relay 10 mins E

Show a welcome to all – no matter what they look like.

**You will need:** a box or basket of assorted clothes for each team.

* Divide your family into teams and ask them to stand at one end of the room, while you put the boxes of clothes at the opposite end, one for each team.
* Ask the children to take turns in their teams to run, take an item of clothing, return to their team and put it on before the next team member runs.
* When everyone is dressed up, you may like to take a photograph of the teams. Discuss with the children how people will all look different as they come to church, but everyone is welcome.

Youth Division

Jesus concludes his teaching on mission by stressing the close identification between Father God, Jesus himself, those who go in his name, and those who receive his followers in the right spirit.

**Questions to discuss**

* This passage tells us to offer others at least a cup of cold water; in our country today, this would require minimal effort – what could an equivalent offer be?
* How does it feel to know that we have been called ‘in the name of Jesus’ to go out and welcome others?
* How could we respond to others when we aren’t made to feel welcome?

**Explore**:

Look up different ways in which other cultures welcome people. For example: Tibetan monks greet each other by sticking out their tongues; in Japan they greet each other with a bow; and in Kenya, the Maasai tribe greet with an elaborate jumping dance! Share the different ways we might greet each other, and perhaps pick a favourite from the other cultures you have explored

**Recognition            10 mins WE**

Print out some pictures of famous people who you think your family or friends will recognise, and disguise them by drawing hats, beards, moustaches on them with a marker pen. Alternatively, distort some pictures of people on a smart phone. Can your friends and family identify them? Talk about how we recognise people. How can we recognise God if we have never seen him? How is he visible in other people?

**Welcome Jesus            5 mins ES**

Light a candle and listen to [‘Holy Spirit you are welcome here’](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktsPuZvH-rQ) by Kim Walker Smith (link on ). Be still and listen to the words; focus on the candle, if that is helpful. Ask Jesus to challenge you on where and how you can be more welcoming and to clearly show you these opportunities.

**Sing**

[Key to abbreviations for hymn book titles](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/worship-and-learning-support/music-support/abbreviations-for-hymn-and-song-books)

**Under 5s**[The welcome song](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf2AvpruhU0) on *Absolute modern worship for kids volume 3*  
Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all

**Under 12s**  
[Ask seek knock](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3vXskhI1ig), Hillsong Kids on *Can you believe it?*  
[Everybody’s welcome](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeV8qoYtDbc), Vineyard Music on *Great big God*

**12+**[Heaven is our home,](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdb_cttBKB0) Hillsong Kids on *Can you believe it?*  
Come, now is the time to worship