

Faith at Home for families

Activity 10

All Are Welcome!



Hello to you all from St Mary's Church, and welcome to this week's Faith at Home activity sheet.

I can hardly believe that we have arrived at number 10 in the series already!

Before we begin: what do we mean by 'welcome'?

We use the word 'welcome' a lot in this week's activity sheet, so here's one meaning of the word to help you:

A 'welcome' is saying 'hello' in a warm and friendly way so that someone feels at ease and doesn't need to worry.

This week – showing You Care for Others

This week's story is about showing welcome and care for other people. Jesus loved and cared for others and he wants us to do the same.

You might like to read the story from a Bible you have at home, or look it up online, or you can read it at the bottom of this sheet.

You can read what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 10 verses 40-42.

Have you been welcoming?

I wonder if you can think of a time when you welcomed someone.

- What did you do?
- It has been a long time since we welcomed anyone into our homes because of the lockdown, isn't it? But maybe you can remember...
- maybe you smiled and said, 'Let's play'
- or perhaps you gave them a sweet from your sweet bag.
- Perhaps you have heard a grown-up say to a visitor, 'Would you like a cup of tea?'

We welcomed a girl from Belarus

I remember a few years ago when my family welcomed a little girl from Belarus into our home for a few weeks each year for five years. When she first came she was 6 years old. She didn't speak any English; she hadn't met us before and she was a long way from home.

- Can you imagine what that must have been like for her?

It was really important that we made her feel welcome!

We bought her some new things like clothes and toys that she could use while she stayed with us. And then she took them home with her at the end of her visit.



We made a banner with the Belarusian flag on it and the word 'Welcome' in her language. This is the word 'welcome' in Belarusian: **Сардэчна**.

Have you been unwelcoming?

Sometimes it is easier to be unwelcoming. Here are some times when we might be unwelcoming:

- When we don't make an effort to invite someone to join our game,
- or we don't try and include someone in our conversations.
- It's easy to be unwelcoming if we don't know someone,
- or if they look a bit different.
- Maybe we think they're too young, or not 'cool'.
- I wonder if you have ever felt left out. It's not a nice feeling is it?

What did Jesus do?

In the Bible, one of the ways we learn what God is like is by reading about the life of his Son Jesus.

We see that Jesus spends time with people. He cares about them and he welcomes everyone. He even welcomes people that other people didn't like!

So, from this we learn that God welcomes everyone into his family and loves them – you, me, them, everybody. No-one is left out!

When we are loved and welcomed into God's family, we can feel so full of God's love that some of it overflows onto the people around us. We are loved, and God wants us to 'pass it on'! It's like popcorn.

God's love is like popcorn!



Have you ever bought the 'not popped' kind of popcorn that you put in the microwave or a saucepan?

The kernels are really small to begin with, like you and me.

As they get warmed up, like we are warmed up by God's love, they start to pop, pop, pop! The bag of popcorn gets bigger and bigger until it can't contain all the popcorn.

This is like God's love spilling out of us when we make other people feel welcome, especially those who usually feel left out.

I wonder who you will give a welcome to this week.

Prayer Treasure Box – Idea 10

We thank God that everyone is welcome in his family,
and no-one gets left out

Try to find something for your Prayer Treasure Box that reminds you we are loved by God.

- Find 2 things the same,
- Put one in your Box and give the other one to someone else.
- Perhaps you will find or make something heart shaped
- Or a bit of popcorn!
- Maybe you can write the word 'welcome' in another language and put that in your Box.



A prayer you might like to say

Dear God,

we thank you that you welcome us into your family.

We thank you that you love us.

Please help us to show your love and care to other people this week.

Please help us to make them feel welcome.

Amen.

Other 'Welcome' activities!

POPCORN PRAYERS

- You'll need some microwave popping popcorn* for this!
- Follow the instructions on the box to make the popcorn, ask a grown up to help you.
- While you are waiting for the popping sound, think about people you know who usually get left out.
- You can say a pray for them, asking God to bless them and send them someone this week to help them feel welcome. Maybe that someone is you!
- Then eat the popcorn when it's ready, as a reminder that we are loved by God.
- Don't forget to pass it on!

*(*popping corn that you pop in a saucepan will also work. If you use this sort, a grown-up should be in charge of the saucepan the whole time)*

WELCOME BANNER

- Make a 'welcome' banner for your front door



Bible Reading

Matthew chapter 10 verses 40-42 – Rewards!

Jesus is with his disciples and he's teaching them. This is what he said:

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me;

and anyone who welcomes me welcomes God who sent me.

If you welcome a prophet because they are God's messenger, you will share in the prophet's reward.

And if anyone welcomes a good person because they are good, they will share in their reward.

If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of my most humble followers because they are my follower, they will definitely receive a reward.”