



*Session 11:*  
**Honour - Helping  
others belong**



**Aims for this  
session**

- To think about what excludes others
- To consider how to make others welcome



## Memory Verse

Do good to everyone, especially to those in the family of faith.

Galatians 6:10 (NLT)



## Catch Up (10 mins)

Refer to the teaching notes for guidance on how to run this section.



## Healing (5 mins)

(This is based on teaching from Session 9, Term 2 of the curriculum. If you haven't done this session then see the teaching notes from this term.)

*Is there something you would like healed? Or is there someone you know who is sick? If the answer is 'Yes', just put your hand up. Can the people around them please pray.*

Remember to remind them to: ask, tell it to go, wait, see what God did and pray again. Allow the children time to do this. Then ask what God did.



## God Spot (5 mins)

### Resource:

- Yellow mat

Use your yellow mat. Ask the children what good things God has been doing in their life this week and ask them to come and share on the God spot while everyone else listens. (This is based on teaching from Session 6, Term 1. If you haven't done this session then refer to the teaching notes from that term.)



## Game 1 (5 mins)

Explain that you'd like to play a different version of musical chairs. In this game the idea is to make sure no one is out; if anyone is without a place to sit, the group loses. Tell them you will remove a chair, but not a child, every time the music stops. They need to figure out ways to share their chairs so no one is out.



## Introduction (5 mins)

### Resource:

- Finding Nemo 43:34-47:54

- How does Crush make Marlin (Nemo's father) feel welcome to the EAC?
- How is Dory made to feel welcome by the baby turtles?

**If you don't have the movie clip, try these questions:**

- Can you remember how you felt on the first day of school?
- Have you started an after-school activity recently? How did it feel to be new?
- What could others have done to make you feel better?



## Bible story

(5 mins)

Based on Acts 9:19-28

*Saul had had an amazing time in Damascus. He had told loads of people about Jesus and how much Jesus loved them. All the people who heard him speak were amazed. There was just one problem: people knew that, in the past, Saul had captured Christians and put them in prison, so the Christians in Damascus were afraid of him. Saul knew there was a way to sort this problem out - it was to travel to Jerusalem, but it worried him. Saul knew God was bigger than any problem he faced but, at the same time, he couldn't help but wonder 'what if he went on this journey and then it all went wrong'. Then the decision to go to Jerusalem was taken out of his hands. The Jews decided they didn't like what Saul had been teaching and planned to kill him. His friends put him in a basket and lowered him over the walls of Damascus so he could escape. Then Saul headed for Jerusalem.*

*Jesus' disciples were all in Jerusalem and Saul's plan was to join them, but he was worried that they may not trust him and they may not believe him. As Saul headed towards Jerusalem he met Barnabas. Barnabas was a nice guy- the kind of person that, when you met him, you felt like you'd been friends for ages. They talked and talked and Saul told Barnabas how he had met Jesus, been blinded and got his sight back. Barnabas knew Saul had taught the people about Jesus in Damascus so he took Saul to meet the disciples in Jerusalem.*

*Barnabas could have just left Saul to it with the disciples but, instead, he stayed and told them all he had learned about Saul. He explained how much Saul loved Jesus. After that the disciples decided to accept Saul and invited him to stay with them.*



## Talk 5-7

(5 - 7 mins)

*In today's Bible story, Saul is going to meet the people in the church in Jerusalem. He was an outsider; the only things the church knew about Saul were bad. How do you think it would have felt to walk into a room knowing the people in it only knew bad things about you? But Saul doesn't have to walk into the room on his own. Saul is helped by someone called Barnabas who introduces him to people. If Barnabas had said, 'This is Saul,' and then just left him, how do you think Saul would have felt?*

*Barnabas doesn't do this; he shares what he knows about Saul. He found out this information by asking Saul questions when they met. So Barnabas stayed with Saul and helped him feel part of the church. How do you think Saul would have felt if Barnabas had said, 'Why don't you come round to my house after church for some food and then I can get to know you better?'*

*Going anywhere for the first time can be hard. Think back to your first day at school; it's not easy to get to know new people. When someone comes to church for the first time the people who say 'hello' at the front door have a special job from God to help make these new ones feel welcome. But making someone feel welcome takes more than the first 'hello': it is everyone's job and that's because church is God's family. God doesn't worry about what the person looks like and to Him everyone should be treated the same. They should feel like they are being adopted into His family. Some churches actually call men and boys 'brothers' and girls and women 'sisters'. They do this to show that church is a special family. Sometimes when we are new to church, it can feel uncomfortable. There are lots of reasons for this; it can be that, after the first 'hello', no one speaks to you or that you are left on your own. You can see groups of children having fun but they don't include you or people may look at you and decide you don't fit. None of these things is ok; God gives us the job of making everyone feel welcome. We can do this by being a buddy to someone new. We can say 'hello', ask them questions and introduce them to our friends. We can stay with them till we know they have more than one friend at church and we can invite them round for food or to play at our house (if our mum or dad says that's ok). If you see someone new at church, what would you do to help them feel at home?*



## Talk 8-10

(5 - 7 mins)

In today's Bible story, Saul is going to meet the people in the church in Jerusalem. He was an outsider; the only things the church knew about Saul were bad. How do you think it would have felt to walk into a room knowing the people in it only knew bad things about you?

But Saul doesn't have to walk into the room on his own. Saul is helped by someone called Barnabas who introduces him to people. If Barnabas had said, 'This is Saul,' and then just left him, how do you think Saul would have felt?

Barnabas doesn't do this; he shares what he knows about Saul. He found out this information by asking Saul questions when they met. So Barnabas stayed with Saul and helped him feel part of the church.

How do you think Saul would have felt if Barnabas had said, 'Why don't you come round to my house after church for some food and then I can get to know you better'?

Going anywhere for the first time can be hard. Think back to your first day at school; it's not easy to get to know new people. When someone comes to church for the first time, the Welcome Team meets them and says 'hello', but making someone feel part of the family of the church takes more than 'hello'.

What do you think it is like to come to our church for the first time? (Help them process good and bad things that may happen.)

Sometimes when we are new to church it can feel uncomfortable. God gives us the job of making everyone feel welcome: it is our job because church is God's family. God doesn't worry about what the person looks like and to Him everyone should be treated the same. They should feel like they are being adopted into His family. If you see someone new at church what would you do to help them feel at home?

We could...

- Say 'hello'.
- Ask them questions.

- Introduce them to our friends.
- Stay with them till we know they have more than one friend at church (that might mean helping them for more than one week).
- Invite them round for food or to play at our house (if our mum or dad says that's ok).



## Response

(5 - 10 mins)

**Resources:** A large sheet of paper and pens for each group

Divide the children into small groups with a leader in each group. Ask the children to chat to God in their heads and ask Him to give them ideas to help make people feel welcome at church. Have the leader write down these ideas as God gives them to the children. Reassure everyone that catching from God takes time and ask if they have any ideas of their own that would make new children and families feel welcome at church.



## Reflect and share

(5 mins)

Ask the children how it felt to ask God for ideas? Explain God loves to help us be creative and solve problems and that we can ask Him to help us in all sorts of ways.



## Action

(15 - 10 mins)

Stay in small groups and work out how you can implement the ideas that God and the children have come up with. Where necessary, help them liaise with the Welcome Team. Have any of them felt they should be part of the Welcome Team? If so, arrange for this to happen. (Make sure you put guidelines in place and find a mentor in the team who is willing to work alongside them and coach them.) Is budget necessary to make any of their ideas possible? How could this money be found/raised? Etc.



## Craft

(10 mins)

### Resources:

- A4 sheet of paper for each child
- Large sheet of yellow paper (A1)
- Cut out red heart.

Give each child a sheet of white paper and ask them to draw around their hand and part of their arm. Have them decorate these and add the following words around the edge of the hand: (Name) will do good to everyone who comes to be part of our family at church.

Stick the hands onto the yellow sheet of paper/card and add the memory verse around the edge of the heart : Do good to everyone, especially to those in the family of faith. Galatians 6:10. Add the name of your church and the date to the poster, then arrange to display it where people come into your church.

This is the source of this idea to help you see what this can look like, but not the actual version.



## Game 2

(5 mins)

Have the children hold hands in a circle, with one person standing outside the circle. The job of the person on the outside is to try to get into the centre of the circle through the spaces between people. Everyone in the circle must try to stop them while still holding hands with the other children. Stop and swap volunteers at regular intervals.

## Resources for this session

### God spot:

- Yellow mat

### Game 1:

- Chairs

### Introduction:

- Finding Nemo 43:34-47:54

### Response

- A large sheet of paper and pens for each group

### Craft :

- A4 sheet of paper for each child
- Large sheet of yellow paper (A1)
- Cut out red heart.



## *Parental communication*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our theme this week was making others feel welcome. Through the story of Barnabas and Saul in Acts 9:19-28, we explored what it means to help others integrate into a group and how we can welcome new people to church.

In our response time we chatted to God and caught ideas from Him of how to make others feel part of our family at church. If you would like to explore this further with your child then chat to God in your heads and ask Him to show you someone you could invite to your home in the coming week. Or simply think of someone together that you could invite round; it could be for coffee and a snack, to play and chat or to share a meal.

Next week, we will be thinking about how to sort out arguments between each other and seeing what the Bible has to say about this.

Love