

## A LESSON ON WELCOMING OTHERS

### GRADES 1-3 -- Immigration - Lesson II (Year I, Day 1)

**Goal:** To introduce children to the concept of loving our neighbor, even when we might not know him or her, and building a community on Gospel principles.

**Materials:** Paper and crayons or markers

**Lesson:**

1. Explain that, as we walk through our neighborhoods or meet new people, we can recognize the face of God in each and every person. This doesn't mean that we have to be unsafe around strangers, but that we should treat every person as a special gift of God.
2. Let the children know that God is in the hearts of every person. (Use examples such as Mom, Dad, siblings, aunts/uncles, friends, people in other countries or seen on the news, people who don't have friends or who are homeless).
3. Remind the children that often, when we think someone is strange or we don't think we want to be friends with someone, it is probably because we don't know them very well. The more we get to know people, the more we understand them and realize they are just like us.

**Watch:** [Animated Nativity Story for Children](#) from Latter Day Kids

[The World's Family \(An Embracing Culture Story\)](#) from Candyseed Stories

**Discussion:**

- How do you think Mary and Joseph felt coming to a new place with their baby, Jesus?
- How can we be welcoming to people in our own lives?
- Why is it good to be friends with people who come from different places than us?
- What can we learn from each other?
- What are some of the things that are the same about every person, no matter where they come from?

### Activity: Build a Neighborhood

Have the kids draw a “map” of a neighborhood. What buildings are in it? Houses, schools, churches, hospitals, community center, etc. Discuss what else makes a good neighborhood. What kinds of people are important? What about people we might overlook, like little children, the elderly, or those with special needs? What role do they play in a neighborhood or community?

### Prayer:

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank you for giving me friends.*

*Help me to be kind to my friends. Help me to share..*

*Help me to welcome new friends and never leave anyone out.*

*Amen.*

*Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website*