

A LESSON ON WELCOMING OTHERS

GRADES 4-6 -- Immigration - Lesson I (Year I, Day 1)

Goal: Students will be introduced to the concept of a Christian community based on Gospel principles. They will be introduced to stories of welcoming others and kindness to strangers as a direct outcome of lived faith.

Materials: Bibles, items that represent each student's heritage

Lesson: The first video helps students to understand the experience of immigrants. This encourages students to empathize with those who face the difficulties of being new and how we can help them. The second video shows the connection between the parable of the Good Samaritan and our duty to help refugees and immigrants.

Watch: [Share the Journey: We Are All Migrants](#) from Catholic Relief Services (start at 1:00)

Discussion:

- What did Salvador Carranza say the biggest fear of all immigrants is?
- What did Salvador say is the best way to understand immigration?
- What does Salvador's story teach us about welcoming and accepting others?
- Have you ever had to live or attend school in a new place? How did it feel?
- How can we welcome others who are new to our community, school, or country?

Read: The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Discussion:

- Who is the main character of the story?
- What was he doing?
- What happened to him?
- Who walked by him as he lay on the road?
- Who helped him?
- What did he do?
- Why is it significant that a Samaritan man helped the wounded man?

- What does this story teach us about loving and caring for people, even if they are strangers?

Watch: [Who is My Neighbor?](#) from Catholic Relief Services

Discussion: What is one thing you can do to welcome people from other countries?

Activity: Have students bring in an item that represents their heritage (i.e. an article of clothing, picture) and share with the class. Talk about how special it is that we each come from unique backgrounds. Ask the students, “*What can we learn from different cultures?*” Sometimes other cultures can seem strange to us at first, but they are part of what makes every person special. Ask, “*How can we welcome those who are different from us?*”

Prayer:

Loving God,

We thank you for creating all the people of the world and for allowing us to learn from their cultures and beliefs.

Remind us to see your face when we meet new people for the first time.

Give us courage to welcome them and show them love and courtesy.

Grant safety to all immigrants and refugees who leave their homes for a new land, looking for safety, peace, and opportunity for their families.

Amen.

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