

# A LESSON ON WELCOMING OTHERS

## GRADES 1-3 -- Immigration - Lesson I (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:** The first video demonstrates that once, Jesus was a child in a foreign country fleeing from danger. The second video explains what refugees are and what life looks like for a refugee today. Both videos teach that, like Jesus, newcomers and our neighbors need to be welcomed and we must reach out to them in friendship. This activity teaches that Jesus understands the scary experience of being in a new place. We must be welcoming to newcomers and show them that being in a new place doesn't have to be as scary as it seems.

**Watch:** [Flight to Egypt - New Children Book](#) from The Jerusalem Gift Shop  
[Grover meets Deputy Secretary Tony Blinken to talk about refugees](#) from ShareAmerica

### Discussion:

- Following the first video
  - Joseph, Mary and Jesus moved to Egypt. Do you think they had any friends at first?
  - Do you think it would have been lonely for Jesus to be a child in a country that was foreign to him?
  - How could the Egyptian children have made Jesus feel welcome?
  - How do you think other people who move to a new country feel?
  - What is one way you can make a new student feel welcome?
- Following the second video
  - What is a refugee?
  - How would it feel to have to leave your home?
  - How was Jesus like a refugee?

### **Activity: Craft Project**

Have the students fold a piece of paper in half. On one side, they can draw a picture of the Holy Family traveling to Egypt. On the other side, they can draw a picture of themselves at a time when they were in a new place, perhaps the first day of school or moving to a new house. Encourage the students to share what they drew with the class.

### **Prayer:**

*Dear Jesus, thank you for understanding what it's like to be in a new place.  
Help me to be kind to others, especially those who are new to my school and neighborhood.  
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*