



Monday of Respect Life Week
Immigration: Welcoming the Stranger
Grades 1-3

Theme: One Family Under God/Building a Christian Community

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: Holy Family Travels to Egypt ([video link](#))
The World's Family ([video link](#))
Map of the world

Lesson: Discuss that, every day when we 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.)

Let the children know that God is in the hearts of every person. And, even though people may not look like us or speak the way we do, it doesn't mean that they are strange. They are just different. Living in New York, we may see people every day from countries all around the world. (Ask the students if they know people from other countries. Locate that country on a map to show the students the location of that county.)

Remind the children that often, when we think someone is strange or we think we don't want to be friends with someone, it is 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.

Discuss ways we can be welcoming to people.

Scripture: Holy Family Travels to Egypt ([video link](#))

Watch the Holy Family Travels to Egypt (30 second video). This short video shows the story of the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt to avoid Herod's rage at the birth of a new King.

Questions for Discussion

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?

Video: The World's Family ([video link](#))
This short book introduces children to the concept of different cultures. Talk about how beautiful it is that each of us is unique.

Questions for Discussion

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?

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.