

A LESSON ON WELCOMING OTHERS

PK-K -- 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: colorful paper, markers

Lesson: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were immigrants to Egypt. This video shows the story of the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt to avoid Herod's anger at the birth of a new King. We are called to welcome all people who are coming into new places and situations.

Watch: [Flight to Egypt - New Children Book](#) from The Jerusalem Gift Shop

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?

Activity: Have students create welcome signs for your classroom doorway or space near your door. They can use various colors of paper and markers for decoration. Write welcoming phrases such as "Welcome to our classroom!" in order to show students how to be hospitable by welcoming those in the school.

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