

All people

John 12.20-33 Lent 5

Some Greeks who had travelled to Jerusalem speak to Philip, who speaks to Andrew and they both go and tell Jesus. Philip and Andrew have learned that no one is too much trouble for Jesus and are confident in bringing people to him, even people who might normally be seen as outsiders. Jesus speaks about his death and resurrection and finishes with an assurance that he will draw everyone to himself.

This week we explore what we need to let go, in order to welcome others.

Prepare your young people's session

Read Bible notes on [WEB](#).

When have you most felt welcome in church? What made you feel welcome? What might you need to do in your church to ensure that all ages are welcome and included?

Why might young people struggle to feel welcome? Consider any barriers there might be to welcoming young people into your church community.

Find more ideas opposite. Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for links, templates, images, tracks.

GATHER

How welcoming are you? 5 mins WEA

▶▶▶ Play the track 'Never Going Back', United Pursuit on *Simple Gospel*, during this activity.

- Ask each young person to think of a time when they didn't feel welcome somewhere. Ask: How did it make you feel? Where do you feel most welcome and why?
- Then ask them one thing they could do to make a new person at church, school, college feel welcome. Share ideas, first in pairs, and then with the whole group.

First impressions [WEB](#)

You could also use the image and following questions to help introduce the theme.



- What does this image suggest to you?
- If you are to welcome others, what are you carrying that may need to be put down?
- How might you make others feel more welcome?

SHARE THE WORD

RCL Lent 5 Year B: Jeremiah 31.31-34; Psalm 119.9-16; Hebrews 5.5-10; **John 12.20-33.**

Dramatic scene 5 mins WE

- Invite some young people to act out the passage with different voices for: narrator, the Greeks, Jesus, the voice from heaven, the crowd. Ask other young people to play the disciples and/or join in with the crowd. Encourage everyone to make the scene as dramatic as possible.
- Afterwards, discuss together what is happening in the passage. Why is Jesus talking about his death? What does his death mean for his followers? And for us today?

EXPLORE AND RESPOND

I don't understand?! 10 mins WEA

Explore the place of language in our welcome

You will need: 10 simple statements in different languages, pens and paper.

- Place the 10 statements around the room.
- Invite the young people to get into pairs. Give each pair pen and paper and ask them to go round the room, try to work out what the statements say and write down their answers. Set a time limit.

- Afterwards, discuss together how it felt not being able to understand what was written. Ask: How do you think people feel when they don't understand a different language? What can we do to make people feel more welcome?

Interview about inclusivity

15 mins WEA

Understand how others might feel

- Invite a wheelchair user to come to your group. Ask them how they feel being closer to the ground when most people around them are standing up. What obstacles do others put in their way? Do they feel included in church? What would make them feel more welcome and included?
- Encourage the young people to ask their own questions about inclusivity.

All are welcome 10 mins WESA

Reflect on what true inclusion looks like

- Read through the words to the song 'Let Us Build A House (All Are Welcome)' by Marty Haugen, see [WEB](#).
- Ask: What particular words or phrases stand out for you? Can you imagine a church or school where all are truly welcome?
- Finish by praying together to ask God how you as a group can make all people feel welcome.

[WEB](#) Check-in: Connecting faith with everyday, real-life issues.

GO WITH GOD

Consider together what you have explored, what that means for each of you and how it might influence your daily lives.

▶▶▶ Play the track 'Sing It From The Shackles', Rend Collective on *Choose to Worship*, during this activity.

- Provide a box of paper butterflies. Ask everyone to think about what they have experienced today. Then think about the butterfly and how it comes into being. It comes from a place of struggle before it is free. Finally, ask the group to think about someone who might be struggling to feel welcome.
- Invite everyone to take a butterfly as a symbol of truly welcoming that person.

Go with God 24/7

Watch the whole film of *Hidden Figures* [PG] and reflect on how you make other people feel. **ESA**

As you finish, give out the **ROOTS at home** resource [WEB](#), to encourage faith at home.