

Proper Humanity - Welcoming

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Beginning:

Verse: "And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us gladly" (Acts 21:17).

Burden to Impart: When people visit us we should welcome them gladly.

Possible Illustrations: Consider the story in Acts 28:7. Sometimes your parents will invite people to your house to visit. What is your attitude when people come to your house? Do you continue playing or reading when they arrive? Do you hide? We should welcome people with a friendly smile and say hello. Have the children talk about different ways they might welcome someone gladly and warmly (for instance, smile, look them in the eye, say hello, share your toys/food/things with them).

Possible Song: Can You Say, "How Do You Do?" (especially the first three verses)

Intermediate:

Verse: "And taking them aside, He withdrew privately into a city called Bethsaida. But the crowds found out and followed Him, and He welcomed them and spoke to them" (Luke 9:10b-11).

Burden to Impart: Sometimes people might visit us at an inconvenient time. We should welcome them and speak with them to show that we appreciate their visiting us.

Possible Illustrations: Tell the story in Luke 9:10-11 concerning how Jesus went away to be alone and the crowds found Him. When the crowds found Him, Jesus did not speak to the crowds in an unfriendly way, but He welcomed them and spoke with them. What do you do if you and your friends are trying to play a game by yourselves and another child at your school finds you and wants to join in? Do you welcome him or her and speak in a friendly way?

Possible Song: No One Likes to Be Left Out

Advanced:

Verse: "And both the Pharisees and the scribes murmured among themselves, saying, this man welcomes sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15:2b).

Burden to Impart: It might be easy for us to welcome people whom we like or who are like us. In the church we should welcome all people including those who are not like us.

Possible Illustrations: In the Bible, the Pharisees and scribes looked down on the sinners and did not want to be around them. Jesus' attitude and actions were very different - He welcomed sinners and ate with them. If someone from your school who you don't like or who causes a lot of trouble asks you a question about Jesus or wants to come to children's meeting, what is your attitude? Is your heart open to welcome them and are your actions kind and inviting?

Possible Songs: In Matthew's House