

SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR: Proper 20B

Please refer to Guidelines for Children's Addresses in Worship document produced by the LCA Department of Liturgics and Grow Ministries - download guidelines [here](#).



MAIN POINT

Jesus loves us equally and wants us to love others in the same way

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me. Mark 9:37

AIDS

A card with the word 'WELCOME' written on it or a door mat with 'WELCOME' on it (if you have one).

ADDRESS

Hold up the card (or the door mat) for the children to see.

What does this word say? Welcome. What does welcome mean?

We say welcome to other people to show that we are pleased to see them or that we are happy to have them visit. We might say 'You're welcome' when someone thanks us for doing something because we are happy that we could help them. We might say that we feel welcome because we feel like we belong, like we are part of the family or the community.

Why do some people have WELCOME written on their doormat?

e.g. Because we want people who come to the door to know we are pleased to have them at our house, etc.

Do we only put the doormat out when we are expecting an important visitor, or do we leave it out all the time?

In our gospel reading today, the disciples were arguing amongst themselves about which one of them was the greatest or most important person. Jesus knew what they were arguing about, so he asked them to tell him what they had said. No one answered Jesus – probably because they felt their argument was silly and they were ashamed of what they had said. Jesus then told them that being important isn't important! Everyone is equal; in fact, if you want to be first, you should put yourself last. Jesus did exactly that – even though he is the most important person to ever live in the world, he did everything just for us! He loves us so much and wants everyone to know that he loves them too!

Jesus picked up a little child and said 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me'. He was showing us that how we treat other people is how we treat Jesus. When we are kind and welcome other people – no matter how important or unimportant they are – then we are welcoming Jesus. That's why we leave the welcome mat out all the time – we want everyone to feel welcome, whether it's our best friend come to visit, or the postman or a complete stranger or the prime minister! And we especially want everyone to feel welcome here at church!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you that you love us all equally. Thank you that we are important to you even if we are not important to others. Help us to treat other people the way you would treat them and make them welcome in our community. Amen.

You may wish to hand out *Growing Faith at Home, Worship Notes* or another resource before the children return to their seats.

For more information about Grow Ministries and other resources for ministry to children, young people and their families, please contact:

e: growministries@lca.org.au p: (08) 8267 7300 www.growministries.org.au

