

WEEK TWO



Read 1 Peter 4:9

DAY 1

Ask a parent for a piece of tape. Put it over your mouth. Now try to talk. It doesn't really work, does it? Leave the tape on for a minute while you keep reading.

Have you ever had to give up your bed for a night or two because someone was staying in your house? Or maybe you've had a friend over to play, but you didn't expect them to like your new toy as much as they did. Welcoming others into your home may seem like a good idea until it makes you uncomfortable or you have to give up something you want. But friendship means welcoming without complaining!

Take the tape off your mouth, but the next time you're tempted to complain when you're welcoming someone to your home, pretend you have a piece of tape on your mouth so you'll remember to zip your lips!

THANK God for someone who welcomed you into their home without complaining.

Read James 2:15–16

DAY 2

Doesn't it make you feel good when someone sees something you need and jumps in to help? You can do that for people you welcome to your house. If you ever host overnight visitors, make a plan with a parent to create a "Welcome Kit" for those visiting friends—things like toothpaste and soap. Make a list below of what you need to buy or gather to make your welcome kit. Then take some time in the next week to gather up your supplies! (If you don't usually have overnight visitors, brainstorm ways you could welcome your friends who sometimes come over ... like stocking the fridge with their favorite drink or snack.)

ASK God to show you how to be a good friend by welcoming others.



WELCOME EACH OTHER.



WEEK TWO

Read Matthew 18:5

DAY 3

God has asked us to put others' needs above our own, so when you go out of your way to welcome others, you're not just honoring them—you're also serving God. And you can bring even more honor to God when you let others know exactly why you're serving them—out of love and obedience to God.

Grab some paper and a pen or markers and make a note or card to accompany the welcome kit from day 2. Write the words from Matthew 18:5 on the card and a personal note that explains why you're making the effort to welcome others. Put the card with your supplies and get ready to serve God by welcoming others.

LOOK for creative and unusual ways to welcome others.



Read Hebrews 13:1-2

DAY 4

Make a list of five of your closest friends (or if you like to draw, you can draw pictures of their faces). Next to each friend, write a short description of how you met that friend. It's weird to think about a time when you didn't know that person, isn't it? But all of your friends were "strangers" at one point.

Welcoming people we know well is one thing ... but the Bible reminds us that we need to welcome strangers as well. (*Note: You never want to help a stranger without a parent involved!*) It could be the new kid in your class or the family that just moved into your neighborhood. You never know—the new kid today could be your best friend tomorrow!

KNOW that you were a stranger once too, so welcome strangers to your group.

WELCOME EACH OTHER.

