

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

**WE BELONG**
[EARLY ARRIVAL ACTIVITY]**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to spread out around your environment.
- Direct the kids to close their eyes (no peeking!) and carefully mingle around.
- Enlist the help of other adults to serve as spotters and help keep the kids safe.
- Silently choose one kid to open their eyes. Instruct that kid to slowly move around the environment, tapping each kid on the shoulder, one by one.
- When a kid is tapped, direct them to open their eyes and quietly follow the kid who tapped them around the room.
- The game ends when every kid is chosen and “belongs” to the group.
- Play again as time allows.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Jesus **CHOSE** Simon, James, John, and Levi to be His followers. He said, ‘Follow Me!’ Did you know that Jesus chooses **YOU** and wants **YOU** to follow Him too? Wow! Jesus wants **EVERYONE** to know Him and follow Him. What are some ways you can follow Jesus? (*I can believe in Him. I can obey Him. I can do what He wants me to do.*) Great ideas! One way you can follow Jesus is by being kind to people, even if they aren’t exactly like you.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you chose someone to be part of your group, even though they may have been different from you. You may have chosen someone to be the first person on your team even though they weren’t the best player, invited someone to your birthday party even though you didn’t know them very well, or simply showed kindness to someone who you don’t get along with.)

“What are some ways you can be kind to people who aren’t exactly like you? (*I can share with them. I can play with them. I can be their friend.*) Great ideas! When you’re kind to people—just like Jesus has been kind to you—you show them that they belong, just like **YOU** belong. So remember:

[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I belong.”

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY
The Calling of the Disciples
Luke 5:1-11, 27-32

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

**I can have confidence
because I belong.**

MEMORY VERSE

**“My command is this: Love each
other as I have loved you.”**
John 15:12, NIV

LIFE APP

**Confidence—Learning to see
yourself as God sees you.**

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

**ALL TOGETHER**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- Prepared craft sticks
- Upbeat music

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Luke 5:1-11, 27-32

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MEMORY VERSE

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."
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LIFE APP

Confidence—Learning to see yourself as God sees you.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to John 15.
- Read the verse out loud. Explain that since Jesus loves us, He wants us to love others too.
- Guide kids to spread out around your environment.
- Give each kid a craft stick. Have them pay attention to the word written on their stick.
- If you have less than 14 participants, give some kids multiple sticks.
- Begin the music and lead kids to mingle around the environment.
- When you stop the music, direct the kids to work together to line up in verse order with the craft sticks displayed in front of them. If you give a participant more than one word, consider giving him/her adjacent words from the verse, or make it random and have them figure out how to put their words in order once you line them up.
- Lead "reading" the verse aloud together.
- Collect all the sticks and then pass them out again, mixing up who gets what words.
- Begin the music again, cuing kids to mingle.
- Repeat the game as time allows, challenging kids to get in order more quickly each time.
- Add variety by guiding kids to move different ways—slow-mo, reverse, or pause/play.

Note: If you have more than 14 kids in your group, involve more kids by inviting one to be your helper, one to stand and mark the "START" of the line, or any other way that kids can belong!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus welcomed EVERYONE! He welcomed fishermen, tax collectors, and other people who sometimes didn't have many friends. Since Jesus welcomed everyone, He wants us to welcome everyone too. It's like our verse says—'love each other as I have loved you' (John 15:12 NIV). "What are some ways you can welcome others, even if they aren't exactly like you? (*I can invite them to play with me. I can sit with them. I can be nice to them.*) Great ideas! So be like Jesus and be welcoming and kind to others, even if they aren't exactly like you. Because when you love others like Jesus loves you, you'll help make the world look a little bit more like the world God wants for us."

“Here

is

my

command.

Love

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John

15:12 (NirV)

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application

**PRAYER**

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Index cards
- Markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Hand out index cards.
- Read the Bottom Line together as a group.
- Set out the markers and guide kids to draw a picture of themselves with Jesus.
- Emphasize that they BELONG with Jesus.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you sit in a circle, is anyone left out? (No.) When you sit in a circle, everyone belongs, don't they? You BELONG with Jesus too! And just like Jesus had a plan for His followers, He has a plan for you too! Jesus has a plan for [kid's name] and Jesus has a plan for [kid's name] and Jesus has a plan for (repeat with each child's name). How does it feel to know that you belong with JESUS? (good, REALLY good) And because you belong with Jesus, you can have confidence! You can say it this way: [Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I belong. Let's pray.

(Pray, thanking God that Jesus is for everyone who wants to know Him. Thank Him that when we choose to follow Jesus, we can belong with Him.)

TRAVEL TIME:

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going, and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Where do you feel like you belong?
- Do you feel like you belong when you're at church?
- Do you feel like you belong when you're with your friends?
- When you're with your family? What does confidence feel like?
- Does confidence feel like a lion? A mouse? An elephant?
- [Bottom Line] I can have CONFIDENCE because I _____ (lead kids to say, "belong")!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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because I belong.

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