



***Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way***

April 26, 2015

Narrative Lectionary

Matthew 10:40-42



Welcome! *Object:* A welcome mat.

Good morning. . . Have you ever seen one of these? Where have you seen something like this? Usually we'd see a mat like this outside the door to our home, wouldn't we? A mat such as this usually has two purposes. Do you know what those two purposes are?

Well, for one thing, it is a friendly reminder for people to wipe their shoes off so that they won't track dirt or mud into your home. And second, it is placed outside your door as a sign to let people know that they are welcome in your home.

Welcome -- what does the word "welcome" mean? It means to receive someone in a warm and friendly way. Are people always welcome in our homes? Do we welcome people into our home if their skin is a different color from ours? Do we welcome people into our homes if they don't have as much money as we do?

How about in our church? Do you think that we make everyone feel welcome in our church? Do we speak to those people who are visiting our church that we do not know? If someone comes to our church and they are not dressed the way we are dressed, do we make sure that they are made to feel welcome?

Jesus said, "He who receives you receives me." If we turn that around, we will understand that if we do not welcome others into our homes and into our churches, it is the same as if we are refusing to welcome Jesus. We wouldn't do that, would we?

Well, let's put the welcome mat out -- and let's be sure that we mean it!

Dear Father, help us to remember that when we refuse to welcome others to our homes and to our church, it is the same as refusing to welcome you. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia (John 10:14)

Word Search Puzzle

R B Q S L O S E K X F S D E O
W A T E R Q N Y Y T S A I V S
D A M K N Q H W B M H Y S H M
L I T T L E P P H F I A C I C
X T R U T H H B S O R V I J L
R T R E W A R D J F I I P V C
R N C G O N E S K X G Q L R W
H G G N Q Z M H Z B H E E E R
Y D I E A G R R R W T T D C X
G I T V U N G U J Z E L J E H
T H B X E T Y F Z H O T U I C
J E W E J S H O P C U I K V U
J P L M Q Q F O N V S L B E P
Q U E L E R R A U E S H Q S T
R V S M O P H J S Q A N I U R

RIGHTEOUS	LOSE	TRUTH	ANYONE
WATER	PROPHET	ONES	WHO
RECEIVES	DISCIPLE	COLD	GIVES
REWARD	TELL	CUP	LITTLE

WELCOME MAT: Provide children with a piece of heavy construction paper and supplies to decorate their own welcome mat. Children can write parts of the Bible verse or LEARNING TO WELCOME OTHERS IS THE SAME AS WELCOMING GOD, etc. Children could also draw pictures of other nationalities on their welcome mat and take the mats home... or place in front of other classroom doors.

HAND WELCOME PRINTS: Each child can be given some construction paper, markers and supplies to trace their own hand and decorate each finger as a "person" they should welcome. One finger could have short hair and a smile and a tie with collar to represent an older man or pastor or a father; one finger could be a woman so would add curly hair and a bow, etc.; another finger could be a boy or a girl with a baseball cap or pigtails and the little finger could be a baby with a pacifier in its mouth. In the middle of the hand print, children could write WELCOME TO EVERYONE, or other Welcome words from our lesson today, as teacher and children desire!



I CAN MAKE OTHERS
FEEL WELCOME BY BEING FRIENDLY



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