# Welcoming Everyone: Embracing Inclusion as Teens



Explore how Jesus modeled inclusion and learn to welcome others, breaking cliques and loving those often overlooked in your teen years.





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### Introduction

Welcome to this three-day Bible study focused on the powerful theme of inclusion. As teens, it's easy to fall into the trap of cliques and exclusive groups, but Jesus calls us to a higher standard—to welcome all, especially those on the fringes of society. He showed us by example how to include the marginalized and love without boundaries. Through this study, you'll be challenged to notice those who might be left out in your circles and discover practical ways to open your heart and community.

Being a teen is a unique season filled with growth, identity search, and relationship challenges. Yet, this time also holds a remarkable opportunity to practice radical inclusion, reflecting Jesus' love. When we intentionally reach out to those who feel unseen or excluded, we mirror God's heart and build a community that reflects Christ's kingdom.

As you engage over these three days, you'll explore Scripture that exemplifies welcoming others, receive encouragement to step beyond comfort zones, and reflect on how to embody Jesus' love in everyday life. Get ready for a journey that transforms not only how you view others but also how you live your faith as a teen committed to inclusion.

















#### Your Verse

Luke 15:1-7 - The Parable of the Lost Sheep: 'There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.'

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Romans 15:7 'Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.'
- Matthew 9:10–13 Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners, showing acceptance beyond social boundaries.







### Devotional: Seeing and Valuing Those Left Out

Have you ever felt like the one left out? In Luke 15:1–7, Jesus tells the story of a shepherd who leaves ninety–nine sheep to search for the one lost sheep. This parable reveals God's heart for those who might be overlooked or excluded. As teens, it can be tempting to stick with familiar friends or groups where we feel safe. But God challenges us to look beyond our comfort zones and notice those who might be lonely or rejected.

Jesus didn't just pass by; He actively sought out the outcasts. Following His example means being willing to reach out to someone who feels left out at school or in your community. It's in these small, compassionate actions that we reflect God's love. Remember, inclusion is about accepting others as they are and showing them they matter. Such gestures spark joy in heaven and transform lives here.

Today, ask God to open your eyes to the outcasts around you and give you courage to embrace them with kindness.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	Who do I notice that might be feeling left out or excluded in my daily life?
	How does Jesus' pursuit of the lost sheep challenge my usual approach to friendships?
3.	In what ways can I show acceptance to someone who feels unseen?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time you felt left out and how it affected you.
2.	List three people at school or in your community who might need a friend.
3.	Describe specific ways you could reach out to one of those people this week.







# Prayer for Today

**Dear God,** thank You for loving every person, especially those who feel forgotten or excluded. Please help me notice those on the fringes and give me a heart like Jesus—to reach out, include, and love without limits. Teach me to break down barriers and welcome others with open arms. May my actions bring Your joy and reflect Your grace. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*  $\bigwedge$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$ 

















Day 2: Day Breaking Barriers with Love

#### Your Verse

John 4:7–26 – Jesus and the Samaritan Woman: 'For salvation is from the Jews.'

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Galatians 3:28 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free... for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'
- Hebrews 13:2 'Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.'







Day 2: E Breaking Barriers with Love

### Devotional: Crossing Divides to Build Friendship

**Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman in John 4 breaks many social barriers.** Jews and Samaritans typically avoided each other, yet Jesus spoke with her openly and lovingly. This moment teaches teens a vital lesson: God calls us to cross social divides and reach out to those considered different or outsiders.

At school or in your community, cliques and labels can create invisible walls between people. But God's kingdom is about unity, where everyone belongs regardless of background or status. When you choose to initiate kindness and friendship to someone 'different,' you become a bridge of God's peace.

It's not always easy—fear of rejection or judgment can hold us back. But remember that Jesus prioritizes love over fear. Your efforts to break down barriers, even in small ways, reflect Christ's heart and challenge a culture of exclusion.

Ask God to empower you to build inclusive friendships that honor His unity and grace.







Day 2: 💬 Breaking Barriers with Love

# Reflect and Apply

What barriers or labels exist in my social circles that keep people apart?
How can I follow Jesus' example by reaching out to someone different rom me?
What fears or doubts hold me back from breaking cliques and including others?







Day 2: 💬 Breaking Barriers with Love

# **Journaling Prompts**

	Describe a time you reached out to someone different and what happened.
	Make a plan for initiating a conversation or friendship with someone new.
3.	Write about how you want to grow in breaking down social barriers.







Day 2: Day Breaking Barriers with Love

# Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, thank You that in You there is no division or exclusion. Help me to see beyond differences and extend love to everyone, following Jesus' example with the Samaritan woman. Give me boldness to step past fears and cliques, opening my heart to new friendships. May I become a peacemaker who brings Your unity to my world. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 😂 🍑 🔾

















#### Your Verse

Romans 12:9-13 - 'Love must be sincere... practice hospitality.'

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- 1 John 4:7 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.'
- Matthew 25:35–40 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'







# Devotional: Choosing Love in Everyday Choices

In Romans 12, Paul gives practical guidance for how to live a life marked by sincere love and hospitality. Inclusion is not just an attitude; it's a daily choice expressed through our actions. As teens, you can practice inviting others to join your groups, speaking kindly to those left out, and including people who might feel invisible.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25 that when we serve or welcome 'the least of these,' we serve Him directly. Every opportunity to include someone reflects your faith in action. It might be as simple as offering a seat, sharing a lunch, or starting a conversation.

Commit to living out inclusion in your daily life. Let your faith shine through intentional kindness that breaks down cliques and builds a welcoming community.

Remember, genuine love is patient and persistent. Even when it feels hard, your commitment glorifies God and empowers others to experience His love through you.







# Reflect and Apply

What are some concrete ways I can demonstrate inclusion in my daily routine?
How does understanding that serving others is serving Jesus change my attitude?
What challenges might I face in living out inclusion, and how can I overcome them?







# **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a recent experience where you showed inclusion or hospitality.
2.	List three daily actions you can take to include others intentionally.
3.	Reflect on how showing love to others has impacted your faith journey.







# Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus,** thank You for teaching us to love sincerely and welcome everyone. Help me to live out inclusion daily—letting my actions say more than words. Strengthen me to break cliques and reach out with kindness and hospitality, knowing that when I do, I serve You. May my life be a shining light of Your love to all who feel left out. *In Your name, Amen.* 💙 🛠 😜 🙏







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