

Interactive Learning.....

Play these songs whilst creating, sharing and learning together:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcSWpVKKMcs> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEvEVALlJNQ>



Create a Welcome Banner for your home/church – this could be placed on an outside wall if weather proofed or in a window. Using the letters of "WELCOME" create short sentences that illustrate the meaning and describe how people would be welcomed.

Whilst creating chat about the following questions & share stories.....

- **Have you ever felt your faith being tested when things aren't going too well?**
- **Have you ever questioned God or doubted your trust and faith in God?**
- **I wonder if we could be more welcoming and more loving.....**
- **Share would you rather be welcoming or be welcomed & why...**

The meaning of the word Welcome is to be pleased about, encourage or to support something and if someone is welcome, you are pleased when they visit you. Sometimes it is easy to be pleased when we see someone and other times we are less keen! How far are we prepared to go to be pleased, or support, or encourage when we are with people? At this current time we may be less pleased to be with the people who we've had to be very close too – it's not always easy to be "welcoming" when we are wishing we'd rather be with someone else or be somewhere else.

Our bible story of Abraham and Isaac is a powerful story but also can be a disturbing story. Abraham had already left his family, his country to follow where God had called him to be. Abraham is open and willing to respond to both God and his son Isaac, the dilemma (decision) for Abraham at this stage is having to choose between God and his son. They journey together for 3 days to get to the place where God called them to be – put yourself in their shoes:

How would you feel as Isaac – remember he was obeying his father Abraham and not sure of what was happening.

How would you feel as Abraham – Abraham was known for his faith & trust in God but is this a step too far?

Faith is confident that God is always good, fair, just and loving no matter what He does or asks us to do. As we follow Abraham's example of living a life which is faithful and following God's requests even when it's difficult – this may also mean welcoming people whom we may find difficult.

Game

Blow up a balloon and play a game of "No Let Down." As you sit or stand in a circle and toss the balloon into the people you are gathered with say: "Don't let the balloon fall to the floor. You may only bat at the balloon with your hands. No one is allowed to catch it". If the balloon falls, ask/share one of the questions in the think bubble.

Take a Trip

Journey to a view point or the beach - get up while it's still dark. Grab some blankets and a thermos of hot chocolate, and find a place with a good place to watch the sunrise. While you're sitting in the predawn darkness, ask: "What would happen if the sun stopped rising?" Wait for the sunrise, then ask: "Why do you suppose God is faithful to always keep the sun shining in our lives?" Chat about God being faithful to Abraham or how to be more welcoming as we welcome the sunrise every day.