

June 28th, 2026

**Theme:**

Opening our hearts and homes to other

**Object:**

A "Welcome Mat".

**Children's Sermon:**

Good morning. Have you ever seen one of these? (Hold up the Welcome mat.) 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. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# The "Open Door, Open Heart" House

This 3D paper craft visually displays the connection between welcoming others into our physical spaces and welcoming them into our lives.



## You Will Need:

- ♥ Cardstock
- ♥ Crayons, markers
- ♥ Scissors
- ♥ Glue



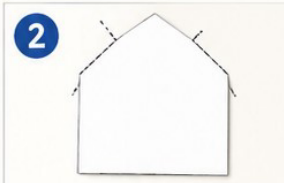
## Finished Craft!



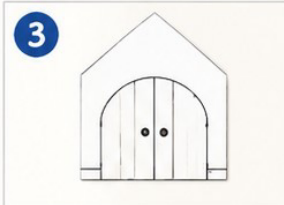
## Steps:



Fold a piece of cardstock in half "hamburger-style" to make a greeting card.



Cut the top corners of the card at an angle to create a pointed rooftop.



Draw a large door on the front cover. Cut down the center and top/bottom of the door so it opens outward like French doors.



Draw a large heart inside the house where the doors open.



Write Ephesians 3:17 ("That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith") or Hebrews 13:2 ("Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers") inside the heart.



## Remember:

When we open our doors to others, we reflect God's love and make room for Him in our hearts!





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# "Welcome!"

"He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me." Matthew 10:40 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 10:40-42



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  
WATER  
RECEIVES  
REWARD

LOSE  
PROPHET  
DISCIPLE  
TELL

TRUTH  
ONES  
COLD  
CUP

ANYONE  
WHO  
GIVES  
LITTLE