



SESSION 3: FEELINGS OF ACCEPTANCE

1—ON THE OUTSIDE

Who does God include? Go to John 6:37 to find out.

Brandon was the new kid at school. His dad was in the military, so his family moved around a lot. It seemed like just when Brandon started to fit into a new place, his dad would be stationed somewhere else, and he would have to leave. Brandon was beginning to feel that he didn't fit in anywhere.

So he was surprised when a guy in his class named Ryan came up to him at lunch and invited him to sit at his table. Ryan said he had seen Brandon and knew how tough it was to fit into a new school. He introduced Brandon to all of his friends, and soon the group was talking and laughing together.

Have you ever been in a situation like Brandon where you felt out of place? If so, describe what you were going through.

Have you ever had a friend like Ryan? What made that person special?

God says that He will never drive away anyone who comes to Him. Can you say the same? This week, seek out someone who seems to be on the outside and make him or her feel included in your group of friends. You never know what impact you will have on a person!

2—WHY ACCEPT OTHERS?

So, what is one way to bring glory to God? Find out by reading Paul words in Romans 15:7. According to this verse, why are we supposed to accept others?

- ☐ Because it is just the right thing to do
- ☐ Because other people in our lives have accepted us
- ☐ Because it will make us feel better
- ☐ Because Christ accepted us

Some people are hard to love and accept at times. Based on what we find in this verse, why is it important to love and accept them anyway?

What are two specific things you can do today to show acceptance to someone who really needs a friend?

3—LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHERS

Turn to Mark 12:28-30—if you dare!

Everybody at church thinks Judy has an on-fire relationship with Jesus. She is the first person to arrive at youth group. She is the first to show up at Sunday School. She is the first to sign up for youth camp. She knows all the answers all the time.

But when Judy gets to school, she is different. She only talks to Christians. She never invites anyone to church. In fact, she seems very alone at school. She says she does not have time to talk to people because her church activities are more important.

What does Jesus say is the most important commandment? What is the second most important?

When you look at Judy's school situation, you can tell that something is wrong. What do you think the problem is? (For a hint, read the verses in Mark.)

If you were Judy's friend, what would you encourage her to do?

4—HELP OUT!

Feeling a bit overloaded? Read Galatians 6:2.

What are some ways that we can "carry each other's burdens"?

- ☐ Help out a friend who is suffering from an illness
- ☐ Offer to help a person carry in his or her groceries
- ☐ Listen to someone share his or her problems
- ☐ Invite a person who is feeling lonely to do something with you
- ☐ All of the above

Let's say that your friend did something that made you and your other friends angry, but she apologized for what she did. How could you show you forgive her?

How would accepting that person back into your group of friends be a way to carry his or her "burdens"?

Sometimes the best way to help another person is to just be his or her friend. This week, look for ways you can lessen another person's stress level by just being there for him or her. This will truly show the person that you accept him or her—in the good times and the bad!