Bonus Activities

All Ages

Build a House: Gather Lego bricks (older) or blocks (younger) and encourage children to build a house (together or separately). Talk about the importance of having a place to live, and remind them that volunteers help refugees feel welcome through housing ministries.

Encourage Others: Gather stationery and pens or pencils (older) or construction paper and crayons or markers (younger). Encourage everyone to make or write cards of encouragement for others. They can write to ministers at your church, volunteers at your church or people they know who could use a boost.

Preschoolers

Welcome Home!: Encourage children to play house and welcome each other in. Talk about what hospitality means (welcoming others in, helping others feel welcome, being friendly and offering food and something to drink).

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

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Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

Theme Overview

Delores Stimpson manages the ministries of Welcome Houses in Chapel Hill, Durham and Hillsborough, North Carolina. She volunteers through the Global Service Corps, a CBF Global Missions program, and serves alongside Kim and Marc Wyatt. This session focuses on the theme of sharing God's love.

Bible Verse

James 2:14-17

My friends, what good is it to say you have faith, when you don't do anything to show you really do have faith? Can this kind of faith save you? If you know someone who doesn't have any clothes or food, you shouldn't just say, "I hope all goes well for you. I hope you will be warm and have plenty to eat." What good is it to say this, unless you do something to help? Faith that doesn't lead us to do good deeds is all alone and dead!

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "How do you help others feel welcome?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "A Welcoming Face."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

A Welcoming Face

"Welcome!" said Delores Stimpson as a new family of refugees walked up the steps of Welcome House. "We are so glad you are here!" Delores introduced herself and began showing them around. After their tour, Delores brought them to the living room and encouraged them to sit. She brought tea and cookies in from the kitchen and set them down on the coffee table. "I know you all have had a very long journey. And now you are safe. I would love to hear your story if you would like to share it," Delores said.

Later, after Delores had said goodnight, she thought back to the day a few years ago when Marc Wyatt asked her to help coordinate the Welcome Houses on the west side of the Research Triangle in North Carolina. He wanted her to train volunteers, develop resources for families and recruit more people to help. He had mentioned CBF's Global Service Corps as a post-career opportunity. She saw it as a new career and realized that now she could help in all the ways she had wanted to. So, she said, "Here am I, Lord. Send me." Delores answered the calling that God had placed on her life. And now, just a few short years later, she was the first face that many refugee families saw when they came to Welcome House. After difficult journeys, she was the one who could welcome them in and offer them hospitality. There was no other place she would rather be!

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: Why do you think Marc asked Delores to help with Welcome House?
- **Ask**: How does Delores welcome refugee families?
- **Ask**: How can we show hospitality to others in our community?
- **Say**: Marc and Kim Wyatt saw how welcoming Delores was to others and wanted her to continue to help welcome refugee families. Delores saw an opportunity to serve God and help in a new way. Delores greets refugee families and offers them hospitality. She makes sure that they know that they are safe and welcome.
- **Pray**: Dear God, thank you for people like Delores who offer hospitality and help everyone feel welcome. Thank you for a safe place for refugee families. Help us to offer hospitality and a safe place as well. Amen.

Delores Stimpson

Delores Stimpson manages the ministries of Welcome Houses in Chapel Hill, Durham and Hillsborough, North Carolina.

STUDENT HANDOUT
DECEMBER 15, 2024

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About

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Crack the Code!

Crack the code and find out how Delores Stimpson helps refugees feel.
Tip: Find something that shows you a reflection.
Hold up your paper to see what it says!

All the refugees Delores meets quickly know that they are loved.

_____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ .

Cracked the code? Try this one as well!
(It's all about Delores' attitude about helping).

"Here am I, Lord. Send me!"

_____ _____ _____, _____.

_____ _____!