Bonus Activities

All Ages

Enjoy a Valentine's Treat: Provide Valentine's themed food (heart fruit snacks, heart snack cakes, cookies, or strawberries), plates, napkins and water. Enjoy your Valentine's Day treats during your Valentine's celebration. Talk about how celebrating holidays with others helps them feel welcome.

All Ages

Celebrate Valentine's Day: Gather heart decorations, valentine's goodies (like chocolates, conversation hearts etc.), construction paper and markers. Have a Valentine's Party! Talk about the history of Valentine's Day using this link for information: (https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/celebrations/article/valentines-day) Make Valentine's cards for a parent or loved one. Talk about how Ardmore Baptist Church helps refugees feel welcome by celebrating American holidays with them.

Older Children

Play a Game: Provide a ball of yarn. Encourage children to stand in a circle. Take one end of the ball of yarn and hold it as you pass the ball of yarn to someone else. Encourage that child to toss the ball of yarn to someone, while still holding onto a piece. Continue to do this until everyone is part of the web of yarn. Talk about how we are all connected, even if we look, sound and believe very differently. Talk about how God created and loves each and every person, and how God wants us to be welcoming to others.

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

Ardmore Baptist Church converted a neighborhood house into a Welcome House for refugees. They welcome refugees by offering them a home and community. This session focuses on the theme of welcoming.

Bible Verse

Matthew 22:37–39

Jesus answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, 'Love others as much as you love yourself.'"

Session Outline

Prepare

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

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "How can 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, "Welcoming with a Home."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Welcoming with a Home

"Knock, knock," Kim Wyatt said as she walked into the Ardmore Welcome House. "Kim, thanks so much for coming," Amy Gallaher, Minister of Missional Engagement at Ardmore Baptist Church, said. "What do you think?" Amy asked, as she showed Kim around the new Ardmore Welcome House. "You guys did such a great job," Kim said. "I know families will feel at home here. I am so glad Ardmore decided to welcome refugees in this way," Kim said. "Me, too. Since we became an Encourager Church for Janée Angel's work with refugees in Belgium, we realized how many refugees are here in Winston-Salem, too. It feels like God has taken us on this journey to help equip us to do a ministry of welcome in our own backyard. And our kids at Ardmore are so excited. We've already decided that we will share our traditions of American holidays with these refugee families. The kids can't wait to share everything about Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, the Fourth of July and especially Christmas. And we also plan to share meals and arrange playdates with these families. We want them to feel welcome here, and we want the Ardmore Welcome House to feel like a home for as long as they are here." "I am so glad you all are willing to embrace refugees in your community. All of this will make a huge difference for these families. They have been through so much, and you guys are shining the love of God for them," Kim said.

Discussion and Prayer *

- **Ask**: How is Ardmore Baptist Church helping refugees?
- **Ask**: Why do you think they are helping refugees?
- **Ask**: How do you feel when someone helps you feel welcome? How can we help others feel welcome in our own community?
- **Say**: Ardmore Baptist Church is helping refugees feel welcome through their Welcome House. There, refugee families can stay for a few days or a few months, depending on their needs. The congregation at Ardmore is welcoming them by sharing meals, having playdates, and celebrating American holidays with them. By helping refugees, Ardmore Baptist Church is sharing God's love.
- **Pray**: Dear God, please help refugees have safe and welcoming places to go. Help us to be welcoming to others in our community. Amen.

Ardmore Baptist Church

Ardmore Baptist Church converted a neighborhood house into a Welcome House for refugees.

STUDENT HANDOUT
FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Pathlight

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Learn About

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Welcoming with a Home

Find the words and learn about how Ardmore Baptist Church welcomes refugees.

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TRADITIONS
REFUGEE
ENCOURAGER
PLAYDATES
NEIGHBORHOOD
ARDMORE
FAMILIES
MISSIONS
RELATIONSHIP
IMMIGRANT
WELCOME
MEALS