Bonus Activities

All Ages

Enjoy a Breakfast Treat: Items needed: donuts (or donut holes), muffins, or other breakfast items, plates, napkins, water. Give each child their snack and some water. Talk about how many churches offer breakfast items like donuts or muffins to help others feel welcome. Talk about how sharing food together helps us become part of the community.

Tour Your Church: Go for a tour around your church. Be sure to take children to places they may not have been before, such as the baptistry, the adult choir room, etc. Take them to your worship space and encourage them to explore. Talk about the meanings behind the furniture, any stained glass, musical instruments, etc. Imagine how it might feel to walk in for the first time and not know anybody. Talk about how we can welcome others in.

Play a Game: Items needed: sports equipment like balls or frisbees. Choose what sport your class will play (Ultimate Frisbee, soccer, etc.) or allow children to create their own game with various pieces of sports equipment. Talk about how playing games together helps us build friendships and community.

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

Karen Zimmerman is a CBF field personnel in Waco, TX. There, she works with Baylor University students through Open Table, where she helps them build community together. This session focuses on the theme of God provides.

Bible Verse

Exodus 17:12

After a while, [Moses'] arms were so tired that Aaron and Hur got a rock for him to sit on. Then they stood beside him and supported his arms in the same position until sunset.

Session Outline

Prepare

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

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "Where do you make friends?"

Engage

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

Share

- Tell the Story, "Finding Community."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

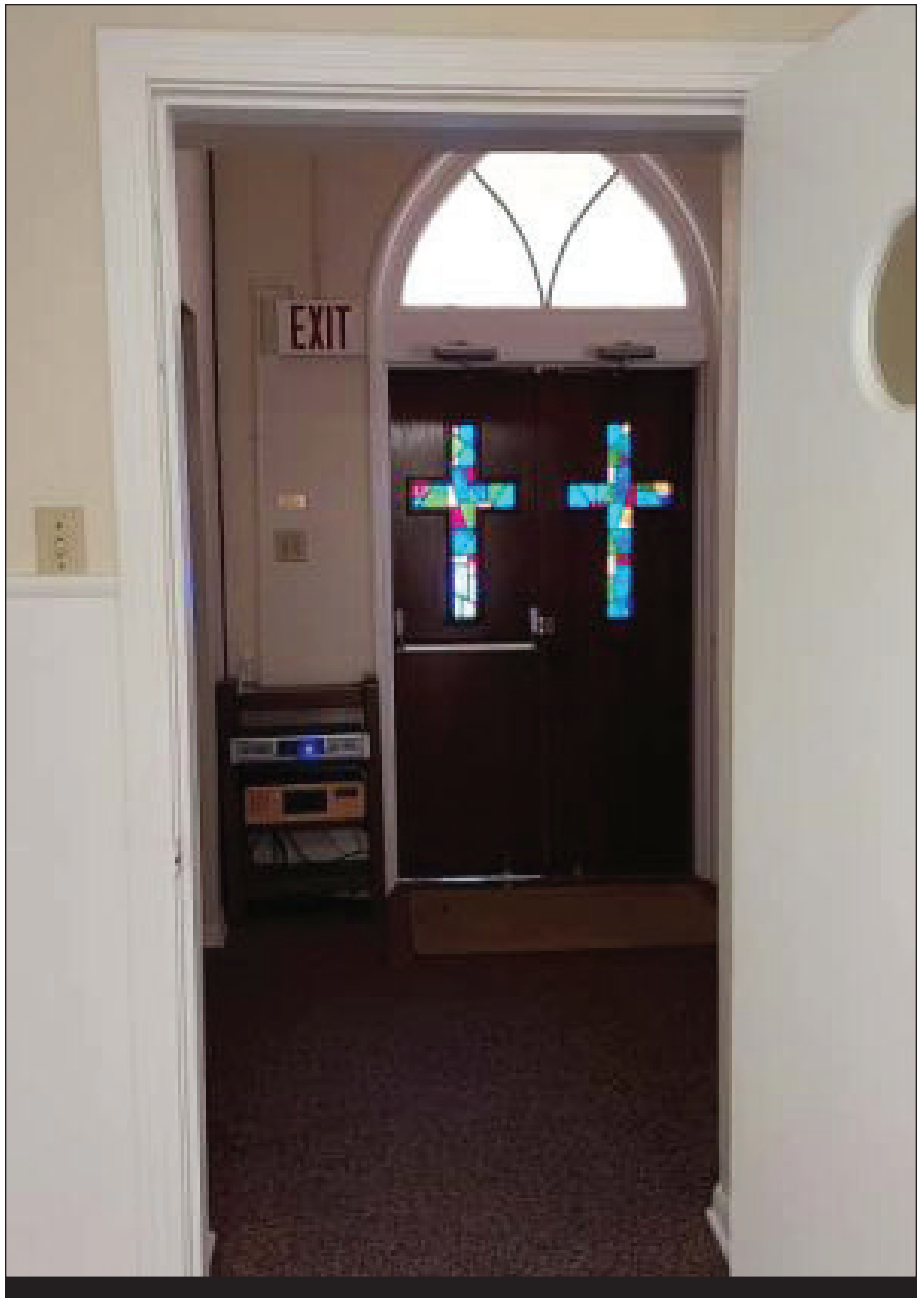
Finding Community

"Good evening, everyone! Here at Open Table we are all about community." Karen Zimmerman, CBF field personnel and leader of Open Table college ministry at Baylor University, said. "It is my hope and my prayer that you find a place to belong in this group, at Baylor and in Waco. One of the great parts about being a Christian is having a church family, a church home, a place that you call home and a people that call you family. But it is hard to visit a church alone when you don't know anyone there. And so, our community is going to find community together! We'll meet here at 9:30 on Sunday to go visit a church together. I know it's early, but you can do it! We'll visit a few churches over the next few months, and you can see which one feels like home. Many of you are far from home. And it can feel overwhelming to try to find a community, a place to belong. So, let's do it together!"

A few days later, Karen took four college students to visit a church. Afterwards, they were talking excitedly about how welcoming the people had been, what they had enjoyed about the service and what church they wanted to visit next. She smiled and said a quick prayer of thanks to God for calling her to work with these students. Seeing them feel like they belonged and helping them find community made her heart sing!

Discussion and Prayer *

- **Ask**: What were the college students at Open Table looking for?
- **Ask**: Is it easy to find a place to belong? Why or why not?
- **Ask**: Where do you feel like you belong? How can we help others feel like they belong here at our church?
- **Say**: The college students at Open Table were looking for community and a place to belong. As college students, they may be far away from home and from their churches and family. By finding a place to belong at Open Table and by finding a new church family, they can feel welcomed and supported. We need our community, our friends and our family when hard things happen. Thanks to Open Table, these college students have found that support.
- **Pray**: Dear God, help us to welcome others in and help them find a place to belong. Help Karen as she works with college students and helps them find a place to belong. Amen.



Karen Zimmerman

Karen Zimmerman is a CBF field personnel in Waco, TX. There, she works with Baylor University students through Open Table.

STUDENT HANDOUT
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Pathlight

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

Learn About

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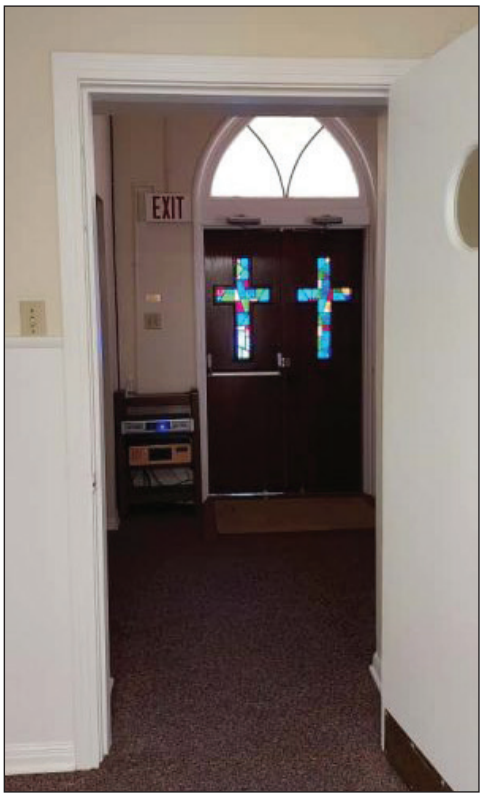

Bible Verse

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Create Stained Glass

Karen Zimmerman and her friends are visiting churches to find a place to belong. Many of these churches have stained glass windows in them. Follow the directions to create your own stained glass window!

Items needed: various colors of tissue paper, contact paper, scissors, stencils (optional), pencils (optional), video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ijMkOVSt5E&t=415s

1. Watch the video to see a visual example of a tissue paper stained glass window.
2. Choose the colors of tissue paper you'd like to use.
3. Use stencils or draw shapes on your tissue paper and cut them out. If you'd like, you can also tear pieces of tissue paper to use.
4. Peel the backing from your contact paper and place your tissue paper shapes on the sticky side- if you are folding your contact paper to close it, only put tissue paper on half of it. If you will be using another piece of contact paper to close it, you can fill the whole thing with tissue paper shapes.
5. Fold your contact paper over the tissue paper shapes or place another sheet of contact paper carefully on top. If placing a piece of contact paper on top, peel the backing and place the contact paper on top of your tissue paper shapes, sticky side down. Push down on any air bubbles.
6. Hold up your stained glass to the sun and watch it glow!