

# FUM 2019 Summer Mission Project: “Everyone Welcome”

One easy way to talk to your Meeting or Church about the Summer Mission Project is to incorporate it into a Children’s Message, Sunday School or First Day School lesson, or Friends’ Camp activity. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

## A.) Building on Christ

Book suggestion: *Everybody’s Welcome*, by Patricia Hegarty

Bible reading:  
Matthew 7:24-27

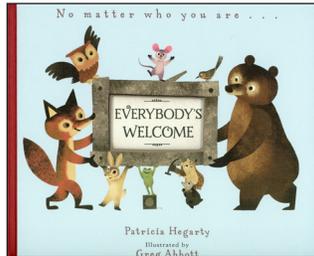
Preparative ideas: What are some markers of belonging that the children would know? If this is a congregational context: have they seen baby showers or dedications, or do they know that children of a certain age receive Bibles, or is their artwork posted on a bulletin board? If they like to sing, you might want to prepare for a round of “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock.”

Message: Jesus told a story about two house builders. One of their houses lasted, and one didn’t. I’m going to read the Bible passage to you, so listen for what the difference might be.

- Read Matthew 7:24-27, then review... the house that lasted was built on the rock.

What do you think that looks like, to build a house on a rock? If Jesus is our rock, then we have to build our lives on the things that mattered most to him: forgiveness, and compassion, and peace. It means that Jesus’ love has to be our foundation.

Here’s a book about what a house like that might look like, called *Everybody’s Welcome*.



- Read the book, emphasizing throughout how the different characters are being told that they belong.

Isn’t it special, when you know that you belong? What are some times when you feel that way?

This summer, we’re collecting money for a Quaker school in a place called Ramallah. At this school, all kinds of kids can belong.

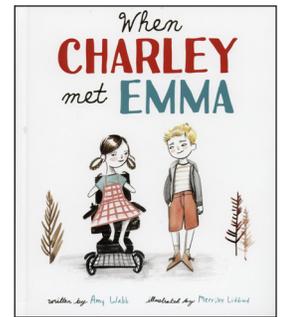
- Can we pray together, for kids here and for kids in Ramallah? Lord, thank you for all the different kinds of people that make up your world. Give us wisdom and courage to build a home together that rests on your love. AMEN.

## B.) Many Parts; One Body

Book suggestion: *When Charley Met Emma*, by Amy Webb

Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Preparative ideas: One of the characters in the story, Emma, uses a wheelchair. She’s shown swinging on a special swing that keeps her safe. The book also references the use of sign language, breathing machines, and canes for the sight-impaired. Your SMP materials include pictures of the school in Ramallah and the kinds of adaptive equipment we hope to purchase, which the children might like to see. If they like to sing, a song like “Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes,” might be appropriate.



Message:

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

The Apostle Paul asks us a funny question, in one of his letters: if your whole body was an eyeball, how would you hear? Here’s another: if your whole body was an ear, how would you know what anyone smells like?

What would happen if your eye said to your hand: hey hand, you can’t see anything, so I don’t need you? That wouldn’t work very well at all! And your foot doesn’t say: hrrumph, I can’t play piano as well as a hand, so I guess I’ll just get going.

It doesn’t work that way, right?

Now, there are some folks who don't have all of those parts, and that's fine. Our story today has some people like that in it. The Apostle Paul wasn't really talking about our individual bodies, though, with our fingers and noses and belly buttons. He was talking about our one big body: the body of Christ.

In this big body, we need everyone. We need Friends who are good fixers, and Friends who are good teachers, and Friends who make great brownies. It takes all of us to be the body of Christ on earth.

Here's a book about learning to be friends with someone who is different, called *When Charley Met Emma*.

- Read the book together.

You know, if Charley hadn't been willing to be friends with someone who was different, he would have really missed out.

I liked how Emma had special tools that helped her. She had a wheelchair that she could play tag in! And when it was time to swing, she had a swing with a harness so that she wouldn't fall out.

What are some things we do to make people welcome, here? (Ideas: use of microphones during worship, or ramps in the building, having large print bulletins and Bibles available, having a stool in the bathroom to help short people wash their hands.)

Together, Friends in Maine and Friends in California and Friends in Tennessee and Friends in Iowa and Friends right here are working to support a Quaker school in a place called Ramallah. At that school, they need to build things that will welcome in more kinds of students, like a special chair that goes up stairs.

- Can we pray together? Living Christ, we need each other! Help us to be grateful for all the different friends we have and quick to offer the help that others need. AMEN.

Visit the FUM website for more resources and information about this year's Summer Mission Project: "Everyone Welcome"

[www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/summer-mission-project](http://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/summer-mission-project)

## C.) Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Book suggestion: *47 Strings: Tessa's Special Code*, by Becky Carey

Bible reading: Psalm 139:7-18

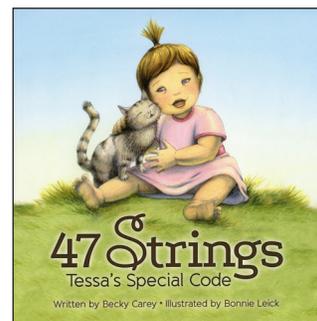
Preparative ideas: The book contains an image of DNA drawn on a chalkboard, but depending on the age of the children in your group, they might want a clearer explanation or to see a 3-D model.

- Where would you go, if you wanted to get away from God? If you went all the way up to the top of the tallest mountain: God is there. If you went all the way down to the bottom of the sea: God is there.

There's a poem about this in the Psalms, so let me read a part of it to you.

Read the passage together.

This is true for each one of us! Every person on the planet was made, carefully and lovingly, by God. Today we have a book called *47 Strings* that's about people who are born with Down Syndrome.



- Read the book together.

I'm really glad that Tessa was born into a family that knew how special she was! This summer, we're doing a project together. We're fundraising to support a school in a place called Ramallah, which is the only school in the area that children like Tessa can attend. They want to fix their buildings up so that they're even more welcoming to everyone that God has so carefully made.

- Can we pray together? Loving God, we praise you because we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Teach us to see ourselves and all people as your beautiful creations. AMEN.