



# God's Great Big Tent

*Stories of Radical Welcome*

## Program Overview

### Theme

*God welcomes everyone and God calls us to do the same.*

### Background

In Jesus' time, people had to be, think, and act a certain way in order to be acceptable in society. Some said this was true if you were even to be acceptable to God. *Jesus showed us a different way.* His actions told us that it's exactly the people who *don't* fit in the box who are most welcome. And when he welcomed *all* people and crossed boundaries, that's when the "reign of God" broke into the world.

In our time, little has changed. People have to be, think, and act a certain way in order to be acceptable in society, and some say, to God. *Jesus calls us to a different way.* We are called to radical welcome, to cross boundaries, to *reject* what society says is acceptable. And when we do this, that's when the "reign of God" continues to break into the world.

Jesus calls us into community—community with one another as the Body of Christ, and community with our neighbors, regardless of who they are. God's Great Big Tent has a strong emphasis on community building, both within and beyond our congregations.

### Stories and Daily Themes

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|--|---|
| 1. Jesus Cleanses a Leper (Mark 1:40-45)             | <i>God Heals and God Calls Us to Heal</i>       |
| 2. Jesus Blesses Little Children (Mark 10:13-16)     | <i>God Includes and God Calls Us to Include</i> |
| 3. The Parable of the Great Dinner (Luke 14:7-14)    | <i>God Invites and God Calls Us to Invite</i>   |
| 4. The Canaanite Woman's Faith (Matthew 15:21-28)    | <i>God Welcomes and God Calls Us to Welcome</i> |
| 5. The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) | <i>God Cares and God Calls Us to Care</i>       |



## Basic Structure

1. Large Group Opening -20 minutes minimum
  - a. Build community through worship and music
  - b. Introduce each day's story and theme
  - c. Teach songs
  - d. Provide continuity and reinforcement of over-arching theme
  
2. Small Group - 30 minutes minimum (with options to expand)
  - a. Dive into the Word!
  - b. Build community through Intergenerational Participation and Story Sharing
  - c. Group discussion, paper and pencil activities, alternative and supplemental activities
  
3. Activity Rotations (Pick and Choose) - 30 minutes/rotation minimum
  - a. Opportunities to "touch" the stories in multiple ways, engaging multiple senses
  - b. Rotation Options:
    - i. Arts & Crafts
    - ii. Snack (10 min) & Games (20 min)
    - iii. Drama
    - iv. Community Connections: Build community by inviting community organizations to share their work, and help the kids make real-world connections to the over-arching theme
  
4. Large Group Closing - 10 minutes minimum
  - a. Build community through worship and music
  - b. Provide continuity and reinforcement of theme

## Deliverables

All deliverables are digital and printable unless indicated.

1. Director's Guide & General Admin Materials
  - a. Overview of theme and materials including Bible background and theological implications.
  - b. List of all available materials and their useSchedule for implementation



2. Logo and Font
  - a. Logo in various formats
  - b. CMYK and RGB color palettes
  - c. Public domain fonts for use in materials
  
3. Promotional Materials
  - a. Postcards
  - b. Letters
  - c. Posters and flyers
  - d. Newsletter ads
  
4. Large Group Materials
  - a. Leader Guide
    - i. Structure of Opening and Closing
    - ii. Order of Worship and suggested prayers, etc.
    - iii. Daily Bible Memory Verses
  - b. Skits
  
5. Music
  - a. Leader Guide
  - b. Sheet music
  - c. Lyric booklets for kids
  - d. *Video*
  - e. *Audio* (both of songs being sung, and accompaniment)
  
6. Small Group Materials
  - a. Pre-K (ages 3 and 4)
    - i. Leader Guide
    - ii. Story Cards
  
  - b. *Option One:* Grade-leveled materials for kids *going into* Grades K-1, Grades 2-3, and Grades 4-5
    - i. Leader Guide
    - ii. Learner Leaflets
    - iii. Leader Leaflets



- c. *Option Two*: All Ages materials (1-room schoolhouse style) for mixed-age groups
  - i. Leader Guide
  - ii. Learner Leaflets
  - iii. Leader Leaflets
  
- 7. Rotation Guides: Leader Guide for each rotation
  - a. Drama
  - b. Snacks
  - c. Outdoor Games
  - d. Arts & Crafts
  - e. Community Connections
  
- 8. Family Program (Performance)
  - a. Organizer Guide
  - b. Kids' readings
  - c. Bulletin template
  
- 9. Signs and Décor
  - a. Decoration Guide (included in Director's Guide)
  - b. Printable signage for classrooms and common areas
  
- 10. Newsletters
  - a. Templates for daily newsletters to send home with kids with option to use as written and/or insert original information
  - b. PDF samples of completed newsletters