

Strangers

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Look

In case you haven't noticed, our world is big and diverse. You don't have to travel far to feel out of place and uncertain. The trepidation that comes with encountering the unknown can generate fear, which in turn can cause us to put up barriers to feel safe.

1. Describe a recent situation in which you felt like a stranger. It could be as big as a distant travel, or as small as a new restaurant.
2. In what way do you experience fear when you feel like a stranger?
3. How do you typically react when you feel like a stranger?

Book

Matthew 10:40-42

Jesus wraps up his encouraging speech before sending out the twelve with this seemingly simple message.

1. What all does Jesus imply in the word "welcome"?
2. By no accident, Jesus uses three sentences about welcoming. What is the significance of each group he references?
3. How is the last verse both guidance for followers and words of encouragement to the disciples?

Took

Taking time to truly welcome someone can take an a myriad of forms. From becoming a foster parent to simply sharing a smile and 'hello' with someone who looks out of place. When we take the opportunity to practice a welcoming act, we create a space for the Holy Spirit to move and act in incredible ways.

1. What holds you back from welcoming people more frequently?
2. Where can you find encouragement and strength to be more welcoming?
3. What is one way you can truly welcome a stranger this week?