

# Radical Welcome Session 3

## How radical are we in our welcome?



- **Purpose:**

To help people begin to see how Radical Welcome might impact in their context.

**Session Outline and Timings: Session Total 1hr 25 minutes**

Up to 30 minutes	<b>Setting up the space.</b> Ensure that the room you are using is thoroughly prepared. Ensure that the washing line from session 1 is available. Have a table nearby, large enough to take 8 A4 sheets of paper and 8 candles. Set up data projector or flip chart. Make sure you have copies of the Radical Welcome images for everyone, and A4 copies of the images for the final worship.
10 minutes	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>
10 minutes	Worship
50 minutes	Radical Welcome – How would you respond?
15 minutes	Closing prayer

- **Preparation (30 minutes)**

Print off enough copies of ‘Radical Welcome – How would you respond?’ for everyone in the group.

You may want to use the PowerPoint images on a data projector for the images and a flip pad and marker pen to record feedback.

Set up the washing line and table (as outlined above)

- **Welcome and Introduction (10 minutes)**

Welcome everyone back to the third session of Radical Welcome.

Give an opportunity for people to catch-up with each other.

Explain the structure of this session, it has a group activity that will help people explore how welcoming they feel their church is.

Give time for people to ask questions, or raise issues resulting in the previous sessions.

- **Opening Worship (10 minutes)**

Use a format that is appropriate to your group and tradition.

Use silence and either sing or listen to a piece of music. Song suggestions are on the Inclusive Church website in the resources section.

Include: **Reading:** Luke 15:1-10.

**Prayer:**

God of the dirtied hands,  
the wandering feet;

you seek out the lost before ever they turn to you:

take us with you into the abandoned places to find a new community outside our fortress walls; through Jesus Christ, the Searching One.

**Amen.**

**Activity 1**

**(20 minutes in small groups then 30 minutes plenary. 50 minutes in total)**

- Ask people to move into small groups of 2's or 3's.
- Give each person a copy of Radical Welcome – How Would You Respond?
- Explain that these are images that will allow them to explore how welcoming they feel their church is.
- Emphasise that 'church' may not mean what happens at the main Sunday worship. 'Church' may be weekday events – Messy Church, community events, toddler groups, lunch clubs. How we engage and welcome as a church is not just about what takes place on Sunday's.
- Ask them to choose 2 images and answer the questions with each image. Encourage them to take time over this and to make sure that each person has an opportunity to say something.
- Give them 20 minutes for this exercise (10 minutes per picture)

After 20 minutes draw the group together.

Go through each image and draw together their responses. It may be helpful to use the PowerPoint version of the images if you can. The PowerPoint file is available as a download with this session.

Write responses on the flip pad or on the screen.

Allow 30 minutes for this depending on how the discussion goes. Don't rush it. Important issues will emerge that you may want to explore further – or hold for discussion at another time.

### **Closing the session (10 minutes)**

Bring the session to a close by thanking everyone for their contributions and participation.

Gather the group around the washing line. Using the table place each of the images from the exercise on the table, and light a candle for each picture. This may be done in silence, or with music as a background.

If possible sing or listen to 'Jesus Christ is waiting', or 'A Touching Place' (Iona: John Bell)

End with the reading again (Luke 15:1-10)

Because the passage may be familiar – it may be helpful to use a different translation than the one you usually use, for example Word on the Street or The Message

### **Closing prayer.**

Loving Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us.  
Lead us on. Take us with you. **Amen.**

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