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# Teaching Games and Lesson Introduction

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**Lesson Opening:** There are several fun activities to get the ball rolling when it comes to talking about hospitality and welcome. Your options will vary, of course, based on timing and personality.

Here are some activities to get kids thinking...(select the best ones for your audience and age group):

- What does the word “welcome” mean? How about the word “hospitality”? Check them out in a dictionary or thesaurus (best for older children).
- How do people say “welcome” in other languages? Look up a few and practice.
- Find a video clip of a grand welcome: it might be a parade, a welcome home celebration, or a festive honoring of a dignitary. Discuss what might make someone feel welcome.
- Why do we offer hospitality? When we are filled with Christ’s love, we can’t help but burst out and invite others into His family. To illustrate this concept, think about popcorn. It’s just a small thing, but when filled with hot air, it expands. Enjoy some popcorn and think about how it reflects on our lives as Christians.
- Tea party, anyone? Act out what you might do if you hosted a dinner party or tea party. Why is it important to treat others kindly when you are hosting them as guests?

Explain that you will be talking about how to demonstrate hospitality to God’s beloved people, and what it means to welcome and care for others. Jesus welcomed others, and wants us to do the same.

**Ask:** Has there ever been a time when you did not feel welcome somewhere? Have you ever been “unwelcomed” because you were young?

