

# Welcome to VBS 2021 Won't you be my Neighbor

This VBS is based on Mr Roger's Neighborhood television show and his presbyterian theology. This information Document will be linked on the CPC website so you can access the video and digital content easily. I will also include the links in this document paper copy so you can type them into your browser if needed. Each day(these activity "days" can be done in any amount of time but are sequential as the activity from one day may be used in the next day's lesson) begins with a word and bible verse that the activities are based around. They include an episode of Mr. Rogers Neighborhood and music. The words I have chosen for each day come directly from Mr. Rogers core values. There is a website for Mr. Rogers Neighborhood <https://misterrogers.org/our-television-neighbor/> it includes the full length episodes as well as information about the message and the music of Fred Rogers. I also have 2 copies of the book *Mr. Rogers Parent Book* written for parents that will be in the CPC library after August 2. If you do not have internet access Community Presbyterian Church has internet as does the Grand Rapids Library. If you have questions about anything please feel free to email me at [vmattfield@yahoo.com](mailto:vmattfield@yahoo.com), [vangie@communitypresbyterinchurch.com](mailto:vangie@communitypresbyterinchurch.com) or message me at (218)244-3057.

Each day includes the following:

**Word:**

**Bible verse:**

**Mr Rogers episode:**

**Song:**

**Who we are(making):**

**Feelings(compassion journal):**

**Relationships(games):**

**Wonder(act it out):**

**Experience(doing):**

**Snack:** You will need to look at this ahead of time because some of the snacks you are asked to try something new or play with your food. There is a gift card for super one included in the bag.

The items in the bag you will need for the activities are highlighted in green.  
Items you may need to find or purchase will be highlighted in red

Day 1

**Word:** Welcome

**Bible verse:** Romans 15:7 “Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God”

Ask what they think this verse means. Read it several times as you do the activities for the day.

**Mr Rogers episode:** pick any episode and have children notice how people are welcomed in Mr. Rogers Neighborhood <https://misterrogers.org/watch/>

**Song:** [MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD | "Won't You Be My Neighbor" Song | PBS KIDS](#)

**Who we are(making):** Who is our neighbor? How do we welcome them? How do others welcome us; look up greetings in other countries/cultures online. Make a welcome sign for someone or a welcome sign for your home that is inclusive of other cultures. Example: welcome in several languages, welcome symbols (can be a piece of wood or a simple piece of paper or anything you have to make a welcome sign)

**Feelings( compassion journal is in the bag):** what does it feel like when you are not welcomed, when you are welcomed. Get out the journal and have the child write their name on the front with a paint pen, marker, colored pencil...then decorate the front and back of the journal. On the first page write welcome then have your child write or draw a picture of welcome and then not welcome on the second page. Talk about any experiences they have had and how it made them feel. Have them write or draw their feelings on the 3rd page.

**Relationships(games):** <https://www.group-games.com/games-by-age>.

**M&M Game(5 mini bags of M&M's are included)**

This icebreaker is a simple way to help people introduce facts about themselves. It's very flexible and adaptable – and (if you have a sweet tooth) delicious too! The M&Ms Game goes by other names: the Skittles Game, the Candy Game, the Color Game, among other names. Gather a group of anyone you would like (could be friends, family, neighbors, playmates at a park). You can do this outside and socially distanced.

*Setup:* Give each person a mini bag of m&m's. Make sure that no one eats their candy right away.

*How to Play:* For each piece of M&M candy they took, they will have to answer a question, depending on its color. For example, you can designate:

- Red candy: favorite hobbies
- Green candy: favorite foods
- Yellow candy: favorite movies

- Orange candy: favorite places to travel
- Brown candy: most memorable or embarrassing moments
- Blue candy: wild cards (they can share anyone they choose)

You can be creative and choose any questions you think would be fitting for your group. The facilitator will then call out the color topic and everyone will go around sharing 1 answer per M&M. As an example: if you chose two red pieces of candy, you will have to name two of your favorite hobbies. After the individual has shared that color with the group, he/she may then eat their candy. Continue to go around the room until each color topic has been shared. (This game was provided by LeeLee1433. Thanks LeeLee!)

**Wonder(act it out):** think of a group of people in history/today who were not welcomed. How could you have welcomed them? How can we welcome family, friends, strangers? Act it out. Pretend you are welcoming someone to your house. Act it out.

**Experience(doing):** Make a card, gather a bouquet of wildflowers, make cookies, practice kind words you can say to welcome someone, then use them this week. What other ways can you show welcome?

**Snack:** Try a new food from a different culture. look up what foods different cultures use to welcome others. Make cookies(cookie mix frosting and sprinkles) and share with a neighbor(talk about who you are going to give the cookies to and what makes them your neighbor) Think about how we use food to welcome someone.

Ask how the bible verse relates to everything they did this day.

Day 2

## Word: Compassion

**Bible verse:** Psalm 145:8 “the Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love”

Ask what they think this verse means. Read it several times as you do the activities for the day.

## Mr Rogers episode: [Mister Rogers Neighborhood - 27x08 Be Yourself: That's The Best!](#)

**Song:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1j\\_A2ebr048](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1j_A2ebr048)

**Who we are(making):** make a sock puppet. The sock puppet does not have to look like them, it should represent who they are. Do they like rainbows and unicorns? Plants and trees, a favorite animal...

Things you need:

Sock

Cardboard scraps(for mouth)

Hot glue gun(if you don't have one there will be some at the church to borrow. Please return it as soon as you are done with this activity as we have a limited number)

Hair(yarn strands included in bag( which can be hot glued in a clump) may want to use regular yarn as suggested in the video

Eyes, nose...

Small scraps of fabric or paper(to add clothes etc.)

Easy sock puppet video

[https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+make+a+sock+puppet+no+sewing&rlz=1C1GCEA\\_enUS860US860&og=how+to+make+a+sock+puppet+&ags=chrome.5.69i57i0i9.14797i0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=\\_JyYAYCNCsTNiQbxhJWYAQ2Q](https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+make+a+sock+puppet+no+sewing&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS860US860&og=how+to+make+a+sock+puppet+&ags=chrome.5.69i57i0i9.14797i0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_JyYAYCNCsTNiQbxhJWYAQ2Q)

Please take pictures of your child with their sock puppet and any other pictures of the weeks activities and send them to me at the phone number listed above. I would like to create a VBS slideshow

**Feelings( compassion journal):** talk about the compassion synonyms below and what compassion means

sympathy
feeling
fellow feeling
empathy
understanding

care
concern
solicitude
sensitivity
tender-heartedness
soft-heartedness
warm-heartedness
warmth
love
brotherly love
tenderness
gentleness
mercy
mercifulness
leniency
lenience
tolerance
consideration
kindness
humanity
humaneness
kind-heartedness
charity
benevolence

Have your child tell the story of the time they showed compassion, record/write/draw a picture in your journal

**Relationships(games):** Find the matching faces game (printed on cardstock) and cut out each square with scissors. Turn the cards all face up and have your child compare them to themselves. Do they have curly hair or straight , short or long hair, smile or not, beard/no beard, same shape or eye color? Point out how each one is

unique. Then find the matching ones with the attributes listed above(example: find all who have a beard). Discuss how we are all unique but have things in common. Talk about how we can notice the things in common instead of the differences. When you meet up with friends or family, notice how each person is an individual but also notice what *we all have in common. We are all human beings!*

**Wonder(act it out):** act out compassion. Use the sock puppet!

Here are some activities that show compassion. Have your child act out how they could show compassion in these places/activities. <https://www.naturespath.com/en-us/blog/17-activities-kids-practice-kindness-compassion/>

For example if you were to volunteer at an animal shelter what might that look like.

**Experience(doing):**Create a care package(ziplock bag) for those in need. In the bag you will find the **beginnings of a care package**. Included in the link below is a list of things you could possibly **add to the care package** as well as suggestions about where to give the care package. We also have a donation box for Grace house in the church by the elevators.

[care packages](#)

[Grace House List](#)

**Snack:** Gorp all snack foods but all different. Combine all **gorp snack items** together in a **container**. Represents all the people in the world. All different but all together. You can also talk about the cookies for your neighbor from the previous day. They are all cookies but each is a little different.

Ask how the bible verse relates to everything they did this day.

Day 3:

## **Word: Courage**

**Bible verse:** Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Ask what they think this verse means. Read it several times as you do the activities for the day.

**Mr Rogers episode:** [Brave and don't know it](#)

**Song:** [MISTER ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD | "Won't You Be My Neighbor" Song | PBS KIDS](#)

**Who we are(making):** make a card([cards and envelopes included](#)) for someone telling them what you love about them or how they have helped you have courage. Or make a card for someone you don't know about how to have courage. Deliver to grace house or give to someone your child doesn't know.(of course under your close supervision)

**Feelings( compassion journal):** Have your child describe a time when they have had courage. write or draw a picture. Describe a time in the future where you might need courage

**Relationships(games):** Talk about how sometimes it takes courage to play games with people you may not know very well. Here are some friendship games you can try with neighborhood kids, family members or suggest to play with classmates on the school playground when school starts.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/parenting/friendship-activities>

**Wonder(act it out):** you can use any questions or scenarios in this courage lesson or make up your own to have your child act out courage. Use those sock puppets!

<https://dilworthpta.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/March-COURAGE-Lesson.pdf>

**Experience(doing):** Deliver your courage cards to someone.

**Snack:** Have your child [try a new food](#) you have never eaten(Maybe take them to the grocery store and find something) Talk about how it takes courage to try new things.

Ask how the bible verse relates to everything they did this day.

Day 4:

## **Word: Hope**

**Bible verse: Romans 15:13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ask what they think this verse means. Read it several times as you do the activities for the day.

**Mr Rogers episode:** Every episode of Mr. Rogers has a message of hope. Pick an episode to watch and see if your child can pick out the hopeful parts. [Watch](#)

## **Song:**[It's You I Like](#)

**Who we are(making):Hope rocks.** Use **paint pens and rocks**(or your own rocks if you have them and write the word hope and then decorate any way you want.

**Feelings( compassion journal):**What does hope feel like? Describe it in pictures and words.

**Relationships(games):**find the hope game:you can use **a thimble, ball, some small object.**..write the word hope on the object(use tape). Take turns hiding the object in plain sight(may need to explain what plain sight means) then have everyone find it. Kind of like eye spy. They don't remove the object until everyone has found it. The last person to find it hides it the next turn. Once it is found each person who found it has to tell a story about a thing that gave them hope. You can continue the game by changing the word to any of the words from previous days.

**Wonder(act it out):**act out how you can give someone hope? Use your sock puppet!

**Experience(doing):**My hope is that you will place these hope rocks around our community in unusual places as a message of hope for all who see them. Put one on the cart corral at walmart, put one on the edge of the windowsill at brewed awakenings...have your child help come up with a place the rock may be spotted and may give hope to someone

**Snack:** make a rainbow snack.(**you will need to buy the rainbow colored foods**) You can talk about how a rainbow is a symbol of hope. The most beautiful rainbows often come after a big storm. Whatever big storm we have in our lives there is a rainbow at the end. Here is a list of rainbow food ideas: [11 Fun Rainbow Snacks \(& a \\$500 Giveaway!!!\)](#) (ignore the \$500 giveaway part. This was the best visual site) or look up rainbow snacks images on the internet.

Ask how the bible verse relates to everything they did this day.