

## *Walking Thru the W's* **"Welcomes: God's Invitation"**

**WORD:** What does the Bible say?

This week's verse: **Revelation 3:20a** - "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..." NIV

The verse for Younger Kids: **Revelation 3:20** - "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock."

**WHISPERS:** What truth is God speaking to us through this passage?

*"I extend my invitation and welcome You into relationship with Me. Open the door of your heart to Me so that we can have real relationship one with another." - God*

**WISDOM:** How can we pray and seek God about this truth?

"God, is there more to being in relationship with You than just rules and things I can or cannot do? What are You inviting me into when I follow You? Help me understand Your 'welcome' to me! Amen"

**WELCOMES:** What can we learn about this truth?

God says, "Here I am!" He is here, and He invites us into relationship with Him. He created us; He knows every detail about us, and He wants us to know Him, to listen to His Word and to walk with Him. We call these invitations His "welcomes," and we want to respond to these with a whole-hearted welcome to Him, saying "Yes Lord!!!"

**WEAVINGS:** What else does the Bible say about these truths?

*We live in a curious time in history, where artificial intelligence changes the scope of relationship. Computer algorithms make it seem like people know us, Siri and Alexa talk to us by our first name, and social media gives us access to more "friends" than we actually know. All*

this makes it seem like we're known when, really, these are just a counterfeit or facade for true relationships. All the while, statistics show that people are becoming more and more and more lonely.

In the midst of this, God welcomes us into real relationship with Him. He loves each one of us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us so that we can experience life with Him! This is an amazing invitation, one He extends to every single person in the whole world. He knows us completely, and we get to choose whether we accept His invitation to believe in Him and know Him, too.

Really, if you stop and think about the best relationships in your life, they all have something in common. Real relationships are a two-way experience, with two people each welcoming the other into their life. It is the same in a real relationship with God. God welcomes us into relationship with Him, and we get to welcome Him into our lives.

In the Old Testament, God welcomed people saying, *Turn to Me, Pray to Me, Call upon Me, Come to Me* (Jeremiah 29:11-13, Joel 2:12 Psalm 91:15, Jeremiah 33:3. Isaiah 55:1-3, et al). In the New Testament, Jesus welcomes us, saying *Follow Me, Come to Me, Ask Me, Abide in Me, Believe in Me* (Matthew 4:19; 19:21; 11:28-30, 25:34; Mark 1:17, 10:21; Luke 11:9-13, John 15:4-5, John 11:25-26, et al).

All these are amazing invitations, welcoming us into real relationship with the God of the universe. Jesus said, **"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..." (Revelation 3:20).**

Let's respond to His welcome by welcoming Him into our lives today!

**WALKING:** How can we live out this truth?

God's Word says, **"Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God"** (Romans 15:7). This is the reason that we spend time sharing God's Word with those He's entrusted to us! God has welcomed us, and we want to share that invitation with others!

Accepting and extending His invitation glorifies Him, and this is something that every Christ-follower can do. No matter how old or young you are, you can "Seek Him Speak Him" along life's way. Moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, adults and kids alike can welcome others to Jesus!

As we talk about God's welcome to us, let's think about others whom we can welcome. Who would God have us share Him with this week? How can we encourage them today?

*For Younger Kids: One of Jesus' invitations is "Let the little children come to Me" (Matthew 19:13-14). Practice this with your children using the doors in your home. Close a door (or just push it to) with you on one side and your little one on the other. Knock on the door and let your*

*little one practice opening it to you. Have fun and create a “special knock” that your child can respond to. Talk about how your knocking and your child opening the door is like Jesus knocking on our hearts’ doors. We can respond to His welcome by welcoming Him into our lives!*

**Wonders:** What questions do we have about this?

What are some of the welcomes - or invitations - that God gives us? Is there a welcome that stands out to you for today? Have you accepted His invitation to believe in Him? What is God inviting you into today? Who can you welcome into His presence?

**Worship:** How shall we respond to the Lord for these truths?

**Worship through Praise: “Invitation Song”** by 10,000 Fathers Worship School  
<https://youtu.be/gNx10tHhpvU>

**“The Welcome Song”** by Absolute Modern Worship for Kids (*a fun song about how we can respond to God’s welcome*) <https://youtu.be/Kf2AvpruhU0>

**Worship through Prayer:** Lord God, thank You for welcoming us into Your presence! Thank You for all the invitations You extend to us to be in relationship with You! We respond to Your welcome by welcoming You into our hearts and lives, today and always! We love You!

**Family Disciple Me Blessing:**

May your heart welcome God’s presence in your life. May you seek Him all the days of your life, responding to His invitations. In Jesus’ Name, amen

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