BELONGING

Program Target:
This program will encourage youth to think about what it means to “belong” and how the church family can be a place for them to belong.

From the list below, choose five people represented in your church or community. Invite each one to be part of a panel discussion in which each will share for a few minutes about the organization he/she belongs to and how it gives them a sense of “belonging.” After each person has shared their experience, use the discussion questions to get panel members and audience talking about the concept of belonging.

a. a member of the Armed Forces
b. a police officer
c. a Pathfinder or a member of Scouts or Guides
d. person who plays on a sports team
e. member of a small-group Bible study or prayer group
f. member of a service club such as Kiwanis, Shriners, etc.
g. member of a singing group or band
h. an adult or older teen who was adopted into a family

Discussion Questions:
1. What kinds of things do different groups and organizations do to make people feel that they “belong”?
2. What things do we do in the church to make people feel they belong?
3. How could the church do better at giving people a sense of “belonging”?
4. Can you belong to Jesus but not to the church?

Preparation Time:
To prepare for this program you will need to set aside about an hour, two weeks before the program date, to call your panellists and explain what is required of them. Call again briefly a day or two before to remind them. If they are prepared, you should require little or no preparation time on the day of the program itself.

Bible Text:
“Only those people who are led by God's Spirit are his children. God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him. Instead, we become his children and call him our Father.God's Spirit makes us sure that we are his children.” (Romans 8:14-16, CEV).
Song Service:

“I’m So Glad I’m a Part of the Family of God”

Vesper or Closing Thought:
As you close this program, remind the youth that although we all feel lonely, left-out and isolated at times, we are part of a great family. God is our Father, Jesus our older Brother, and all other Christians are our brothers and sisters. Invite the youth to pledge that they will do all they can to

make each other, and others, feel welcome in God’s family.