

Chapter 1 **Fitting In**

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. *John 14:3*

To the Parents:

In chapter 1, your child learned the following:

- A sense of fitting in with others is an important part of human experiences.
- A relationship with God helps one to judge the healthiness of friendships and to serve others.
- Christians must balance their need to fit in with their obligation to be truthful.

Human beings are privileged members of God’s creation, and as such are instinctively drawn to one another. Individuals desire to be part of a group. They discover the sense of belonging that emerges when people relate to one another in loving service and care. Jesus understood this and transformed a group of ordinary people into faithful friends who surrounded him with love, included him in their lives, and responded to his teachings.

It is not enough, of course, to seek a sense of belonging for oneself. Jesus tells his followers over and over to go forth into the world and bring others to God. This means including those who could be from different ethnic, cultural, economic, or racial backgrounds. God’s creation is wonderfully diverse, and to know and love God is to know, love, and include all of God’s creation in living out the message of Jesus.

With Your Child:

1. Together read Matthew 25:40 and discuss Jesus’ words, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.”
2. Think of your group of friends and list the ways in which your personal gifts and traits help each other grow.
3. Recall times when new acquaintances have entered your home. How were they greeted? What did your family do to make them feel welcome?
4. Read about Rose Hawthorne Lathrop on the Review and Explore page.