



By Elder Neil L. Andersen
Of the Quorum
of the Twelve
Apostles

How do I help **EVERYONE** feel welcome in Primary?

God loves all children.
We are all His sons
and daughters. We
need to be thoughtful
and kind. Some of our
friends come to church
by themselves. Some
can't get baptized until
they grow up.

You can reach out to
someone who feels alone
or left behind.



Knowing someone's
name can make a
difference.



Invite someone to
sit by you.



Let's open our arms and our
hearts a little wider.



Help those
who feel
scared or
shy. Think
about them.
Welcome
them.



From "Whoso Receiveth Them, Receiveth Me," Ensign or Liahona, May 2016, 49–52.

REACHING OUT to New Friends



Elder Neil L. Andersen and his wife, Kathy, visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa. They had a Church meeting outside under tents. Around the tents was a big fence. Elder Andersen could see children watching them from the other side of the fence. Sister Andersen asked him, “Do you think you might want to invite the children to come in?” Elder Andersen walked up to the man at the microphone. He asked the man to invite the children to come in and join them.

The children came running! They were all smiling and excited to be a part of the meeting.

Elder Andersen also told a story of a boy named Joshua who reached out to another child at church.

When Joseph, a boy from Uganda, went to church for the first time, he didn’t have any family there to help him know where to go. Then the missionaries introduced him to Joshua.

Joshua told Joseph he would be his friend. He gave Joseph a songbook for Primary, and he sat next to him. Then the Primary class sang “I Am a Child of God” to Joseph. Everyone made Joseph feel very special, especially his new friend, Joshua. When they were older, Joshua and Joseph served as missionary companions!

These experiences reminded Elder Andersen that we all need to reach out to people around us who might feel left out or alone. ■