

# Gathering

## ACCEPTANCE

**D**on't you just love that scene in Disney's Cinderella when she wakes up singing "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes?" Her hair just falls into place, her voice sounds so melodious that the birds want to sing with her, and she looks so refreshed from a perfect night of sleep that she is ready to face the day with optimism and joy. Wouldn't it be great if we just rolled out of bed and were already the perfect image of style and grace, so sweet and lovable that all God's creatures wanted to sing with us?

Instead of waking up like Cinderella, most of us can identify more often with feeling unlovable and unacceptable. We wake up feeling tired, groggy, and cranky, and sometimes it is hard to shake that mood. We have memories of awkward and embarrassing social situations that Cinderella never would have had to worry about. We try to present the best version of ourselves – and sometimes this means wearing a mask that will cover up our flaws. For many of us, it is a fight to feel accepted and lovable.

There is this promise in the Bible that brings great comfort to those who might not feel accepted. Jesus says, "*Whoever comes to me, I will never drive away.*" No matter what state we're in, His desire will always be that we come to Him, and nothing we can do could ever cause Him to love us less. It's a great assurance to know that even if our hair is crazy, we're having an emotional day, and we feel like we've failed on every front, He is still there waiting for us with open arms. We can go to God when we are at our worst, and He will always give us His very best. He is always ready to accept us when we are ready to come to Him.

Read the following Scripture together from John 6:37: "*All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.*"

After sharing the Scripture, use at least three of the questions on the following page with your group.

***Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.***

John 6:37



# Gathering

ACCEPTANCE

Do you have a story, maybe one that you can look back and now think is **humorous**, of a time when you felt embarrassed or like you didn't fit in?



# Gathering

ACCEPTANCE

How do we cover up our feelings of **inadequacy**?



# Gathering

ACCEPTANCE

Have you ever felt like **God** wouldn't accept you, or like you were too **ashamed** to come to Him?



# Gathering

ACCEPTANCE

Can you think of a time when you've come to **God** with your **worst** and He has, in turn, helped you to be your **best**?



**ALL THOSE THE FATHER GIVES  
ME WILL COME TO ME, AND  
WHOEVER COMES TO ME I  
WILL NEVER DRIVE AWAY.**

**JOHN 6:37**



**ALL THOSE THE FATHER GIVES  
ME WILL COME TO ME, AND  
WHOEVER COMES TO ME I  
WILL NEVER DRIVE AWAY.**

**JOHN 6:37**



**ALL THOSE THE FATHER GIVES  
ME WILL COME TO ME, AND  
WHOEVER COMES TO ME I  
WILL NEVER DRIVE AWAY.**

**JOHN 6:37**



**ALL THOSE THE FATHER GIVES  
ME WILL COME TO ME, AND  
WHOEVER COMES TO ME I  
WILL NEVER DRIVE AWAY.**

**JOHN 6:37**

**R**ead through the hymn "Just As I Am." Which of the verses help you better understand God's unconditional love and acceptance?

<sup>1</sup> Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

<sup>4</sup> Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

<sup>2</sup> Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

<sup>5</sup> Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

<sup>3</sup> Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings within and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

<sup>6</sup> Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down,  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come!



**R**ead through the hymn "Just As I Am." Which of the verses help you better understand God's unconditional love and acceptance?

<sup>1</sup> Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

<sup>4</sup> Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

<sup>2</sup> Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

<sup>5</sup> Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

<sup>3</sup> Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings within and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

<sup>6</sup> Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down,  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come!

