

**TOPIC**

Acceptance & Belonging

LEVEL

Third Grade

THEME

Belonging

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the lesson, the students are expected to:

- Describe how it feels when they belong and don't belong.
- Learn ways to create a positive culture where everyone belongs.

MATERIALS

- Butcher paper or poster board
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Stickers and other decorative items

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is the difference between acceptance and belonging?

CHECK-IN / WELCOME (5 MINUTES)

Say: "Hi, everyone! I'm so glad to see you today. Let's start by going around the circle and saying hello to each other by name."

- Go around the circle and greet each student. Have different ways to greet one another for all different learners, such as high fives, waves, fist bumps, etc.

Say: "Today, we're going to talk about something important in Aavidum. You already know that in Aavidum, we say, 'I've got your back!' That means we accept and support each other.

But today, we're going to take it one step further. We'll learn how we can move from just accepting others, which means saying, 'It's okay to be different,' to actually creating a sense of belonging, where everyone feels welcome, included, and valued.

When we help people feel like they belong, we're not just saying, 'You're okay to be here.' We're saying, 'We're glad you're here, and we want you to be part of our group.' That's what Aavidum is all about."

GUIDED DISCUSSION / TOPIC INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

Ask:

- Think of a time when you were new or the different one in the group. How did that make you feel? Did anyone do something that made you feel accepted? If so, what was it?
- What does "sense of belonging" mean to you? What does it feel like? What does it look like?
- What is the difference between acceptance and belonging?
 - (Acceptance = the act of deciding to be welcoming of others / Belonging = creating an inclusive space where everyone has a place, a voice and a role in the group)

ACTIVITY: YOU BELONG POSTERS (20 MINUTES)

Say: "In Aavidum, we say 'I've got your back!' One way we can show that is by making sure everyone in our school feels like they belong. Today, we're going to create big, colorful 'You Belong' posters to hang around the school. These posters will send the message that differences are not only accepted here, they are celebrated. And when we put them up, we'll encourage other students and teachers to remember to show that everyone belongs."

Brainstorm Together

- Say: "Before we start, let's brainstorm some words, phrases, or short quotes we could write on our posters to spread the message of belonging."
- On chart paper or the board, write ideas as students call them out. Encourage short, powerful phrases.
- Examples you can prompt with:
 - "You belong here."
 - "Our differences make us amazing."
 - "Everyone is welcome."
 - "Be yourself. You matter!"
 - "Kindness includes everyone."

- If students suggest longer phrases, help simplify them into kid-friendly wording.

Divide Into Groups and Create Posters

- Say: "Now, we'll split into small groups. Each group will make one 'You Belong' poster. Here's what you need to do:
 - Write a bold title like 'You Belong Here!'
 - Add phrases or quotes from our list or create your own.
 - Decorate with bright colors, pictures of people being kind, or symbols of diversity (hearts, handprints, globe, rainbow of hands, etc.).
- Circulate as the students work, encouraging creativity and teamwork. Remind students to keep lettering large and clear so it's visible in the hallway.

When the groups finish, gather everyone back together.

Say: "Let's do a quick gallery walk. Each group will hold up their poster and share one phrase they included and why they chose it."

Allow each group to share briefly, then applaud each one.

WRAP-UP (5 MINUTES)

Say: "These posters are going to be hung in hallways and near classrooms so everyone sees them. That way, our whole school will be part of spreading belonging."

Give the posters to the school's Aavidum Club to decide where to hang the posters throughout the school or invite a few volunteers to help you hang them after class or during a transition.

Closing Reflection

Say: "Look at what we created! These posters will remind everyone in our school that they are welcome here, just as they are. This is what Aavidum is all about, saying 'I've got your back!' and helping everyone feel like they belong. This week, I want to encourage each of you to try to notice someone who may not feel like they belong in that moment. I want you to reach out to them to help them feel included because they do belong here. We all do."