**Aims**

To explore the idea of community – belonging to a school, a family.

**Preparation and Materials**

* A picture of a family tree could also be made and displayed.
* Have available the passages Matthew 19.13–15,
* **Assembly**

1. It's a nice feeling, belonging. Why?

– You're never alone.  
– You may feel important.

Invite the children to make some suggestions of their own.  
  
Also, you should feel that you matter.

1. Ask the children if they can think of other groups they belong to.
2. Another special group we belong to is our family.

We have the family members who surround us – a mum, dad, grandparents or carers and so on – but we have another family, too. Ask the children for suggestions. Someone may come up with the answer – 'God's family'.  
  
We are all God's children and the Bible tells us frequently how important children are to God. Read Matthew 19.13–15, Mark 10.13–16 and Luke 18.15–17.

**Time for reflection**

**Follow-up Activity**

1. Find out about baptism – a Christian service that welcomes people into the Christian family. Tell the story of Jesus' baptism or read it in Luke 3.21–22.
2. Encourage the children to think about what groups they belong to and what signs there are to show they belong to these groups – clothes they wear, a name or other badge or badges, certificates awarded and so on.
3. Watch the *Dottie and Buzz* programme ‘Baptism’. What signs are used when someone is baptized and celebrates being part of God's family? (For example, the sign of the cross, being given a certificate of baptism.)