



FRIENDSHIP

Curriculum Summer 2024



FRIENDSHIP

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FRIENDSHIP

Memory Verses

Week 1

1 JOHN 4:10

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Week 2

JOHN 15:12-13

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Week 3

LUKE 6:35A

Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great

Week 4

EPHESIANS 4:32

...be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Week 5

GALATIANS 3:28

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.



FRIENDSHIP

Lesson 1: Jesus is the Ultimate Friend

Passage

1 JOHN 4:9-11

Main Point

Jesus is the ultimate friend towards us. He gave his life on the cross so that we could have a relationship with Him!

Intro

What makes someone a good friend? Jesus showed us how to be a perfect friend. Today we're going to be learning about Jesus and the friend that He is to us!

Supporting Points

WHAT MAKES JESUS A GOOD FRIEND?

We all begin as Jesus' enemies because of our sin (the wrong things we do).

Even though we were so far from being Jesus' friends, he cared for us and died on the cross to pay for our sins.

True friendship isn't about what you can get from the other person or how much you like them (remember, we were God's enemies!) It's about putting them before yourself.

Jesus' love for his friends is wonderful, crazy, and greater than we can even imagine.

IS JESUS MY FRIEND?

Jesus wants to be friends with you! There's no limit to the friends Jesus can have.

All we have to do is ask for a friendship with Jesus because of his death on the cross.

Once we're friends with Jesus (the ultimate friend), we can learn to become like Him!

Antithesis

Believing that Jesus doesn't want to be my friend, looking to people in TV shows/movies as examples of good friends instead of Jesus' example

Application

Learn more about Jesus' friendship by reading the Bible. Build your friendship with Him by praying. Think of examples of friendships in your favorite movies/shows and see if they line up with Jesus' example.

Discussion

- What qualities do you look for in a good friend?
- Jesus was friends with us even though we were his enemies. How could you be friends with someone who you disagree with or don't like?
- Talk about a friendship you've seen in a movie or show. Is that an example of a good friendship? Why or why not?
- What do you think is the hardest thing about friendship?
- How could you build your friendship with Jesus?



FRIENDSHIP

Lesson 1: Jesus is the Ultimate Friend

Craft

Meaning

Supplies

Instructions

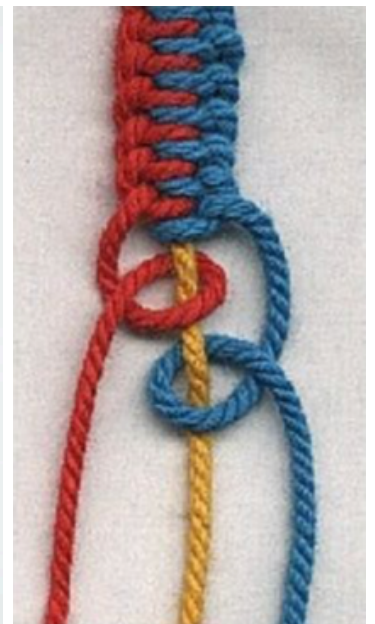
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FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS

Jesus was the ultimate friend to us. Wearing a friendship bracelet on your wrist will remind you that God is your best friend!

String, tape, ruler, scissors

1. Cut 2 pieces of string about 24 inches long and 1 piece of string about 10 inches long
2. Tie together in a knot at one end
3. Tape down (to a table) the string above the knot and at the bottom of the short piece of string
4. Lay the two long pieces out to either side of the short string
5. Starting with the string on the left, cross over the center string then up through the loop and pull tight
6. Repeat with the string on the right, going back and forth until done
7. Tie the ends together around your wrist (ask a leader for help)
8. For more patterns, google "friendship bracelet patterns"





FRIENDSHIP

Lesson 2: Friendships Focused on God

Passage

Main Point

Intro

Supporting
Points

Antithesis

Application

Discussion

JOHN 15:12-14

When friends focus on God, the friendship isn't about what you can get, but what you can give!

Last week we learned that Jesus is the ultimate friend he died on the cross to have a relationship with us. This week, we're learning about how we can be a friend who loves others like Jesus did!

FRIENDSHIPS FOCUSED ON OURSELVES

It's easy to focus on how to make our friends like us, how to get what we want in a fight with a friend, and how to find friends who make us look better.

When we do this, we aren't trying to love our friend. Instead, we are trying to get something for ourselves!

Friendship like this aren't enjoyable and usually don't last long.

FRIENDSHIPS FOCUSED ON GOD

Friends who focus on God don't need to try and find love from their friends. Instead, they know that God loves them and have given up everything for them. (John 15:12)

When we understand how much God loves us, we can love our friends, too!

True love is giving up what you want for the good of your friend. (John 15:13-14)

DO I HAVE TO BE A PERFECT FRIEND?

None of us will ever be a perfect friend even if we're focused on God. But we can become better friends (more like Jesus) over time!

Being focused on getting what I want out of my friends, only being friends with people who make me feel good or look cool, demanding things from my friends

Learn about God's friendship with you. Pick a friend and think about a way that you could put them first instead of yourself. Then try it!

- What would happen if someone was a friend focused on themselves?
- What are the benefits of having a friendship focused on God?
- What qualities do you have that could make you a good friend to someone else?
- What are some things that you could do to turn someone who you don't know very well into a close friend?
- Is being "popular" and being a good friend the same thing? What might be some differences between these 2 things? Which is more important?



FRIENDSHIP

Lesson 2: Friendships Focused on God

Activity

Meaning

Supplies

Instructions

Image

MAD LIBS

One way to start building a spiritual friendship is by having fun together! Grab a friend and practice.

Mad lib printouts, pens/pencils

1. Find a partner
2. Ask your partner to choose a word for each part of speech specified
3. Read the story to your friend
4. Laugh!

PARTS OF SPEECH

NOUNS

A noun names a person, place, thing, activity, or idea

dog	cat	pig	fly
Mom	Dad	girl	boy
book	table	chair	house
Lego	ball	sink	cup
coffee	hair	bow	Mary
shoes	faith	hope	love

PRONOUNS

A pronoun replaces a noun in order to avoid repetition.

I	you	he	she
it	we	you	they

VERBS

A word that expresses an action or state of being

stand	sit	jump	play
run	laugh	cry	ride
read	write	sing	yell

ADVERBS

An adverb modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb

happily	quickly	slowly
sadly	lazily	clearly
noisily	loudly	softly
strongly	bravely	rudely

INTERJECTION

an exclamation

Wow!	Yay!	Nice!	Yum!
Yuck!	Ouch!	Yikes!	Hello!

ADJECTIVES

An adjective describes a noun or a pronoun

funny	hairy	squishy
slimey	big	smelly
small	tall	large
fat	skinny	strange

PREPOSITION

A preposition relates a noun or a pronoun to another word

about	above	across	at
below	beside	by	down
during	in	into	like
near	of	on	out
over	past	to	under

The Original #1 Mad Libs

MAD LIBS

World's Greatest Word Game



A super silly way to fill in the _____!



MAD LIBS®

IF I WERE PRESIDENT ...

My name is _____ and I am _____ years old. If I were president, I'd do a whole bunch of _____ things:

PERSON IN ROOM NUMBER ADJECTIVE

1. I would drive the biggest _____ car in the country. And that car would go faster than any other _____ in the world!
COLOR NOUN
2. Everyone would eat pepperoni _____ for dinner.
TYPE OF FOOD (PLURAL)
3. I would live in the Statue of _____ and build a _____ pool at her feet.
NOUN VERB ENDING IN "ING"
4. I would wear a/an _____ on my head, and everyone would say I look _____ like _____.
ARTICLE OF CLOTHING ADJECTIVE CELEBRITY
5. School would be open only _____ days a year.
NUMBER
6. I would give my friends the best jobs. I would nominate _____ to be secretary of (the) _____, and _____ could be vice _____!
PERSON IN ROOM NOUN PERSON IN ROOM OCCUPATION



MAD LIBS®

A PEANUT AND HIS POOCH

If you've ever met my _____, Snoopy, then you know he's not
your average canine companion. Some kids might find it _____
that their beagle has such a/an _____ imagination, but not
me! All *I've* ever wanted was a normal, _____ dog. Why can't
I have a/an _____ just like everyone else? Instead, I've got a
part-time pet, part-time World War I pilot, part-time _____,
and a full-time pain! _____ grief! Sometimes he looks at me
like I'm chopped _____—good for nothing except bringing
his dinner out to (the) _____. Still, it sure is nice to have
someone with really _____ ears around. And after a long day
at (the) _____, there's nothing better than coming home to a
wet _____ on the cheek. Aw, who am I kidding? I'm really
lucky to have a/an _____ like Snoopy. They don't call dogs
man's best _____ for nothing!



MAD LIBS®

A PALACE FIT FOR A HEDGEHOG

Sonic's abode is a very _____ place. At first glance, it seems like
a/an _____ cave, but if you look closer, you'll see it's actually a
comfortable _____. For one, Sonic has a super-cozy beanbag
_____. When he feels like listening to some _____ tunes
from the 1980s, Sonic turns on his old-school _____, pulls out his
collection of _____, and jams out. In addition to great tunes,
Sonic has plenty of _____ equipment to keep him busy. There's a
dryer that Sonic uses as a treadmill to run _____ miles a day. He has
a/an _____ Ping-Pong table where he plays against . . . himself. (His
record is _____ wins and zero losses!) And for that final touch, Sonic
hung _____ all over his cave walls. He's got a/an _____
photo of (the) _____ next to a/an _____ poster
of _____. It may not be much, but Sonic loves to _____
in his cave all the time!



FRIENDSHIP

Lesson 3: How to Make Friends

Passage

Main Point

Intro

Supporting
Points

Antithesis

Application

Discussion

LUKE 6:30-35

Jesus says that we should make friends with our enemies and treat them as we'd like to be treated. It takes work to make friends, but it's so worth it!

Last week we learned about friendships focused on God. But where do we start? This week, we're learning about how to make new friends.

WHO SHOULD I BECOME FRIENDS WITH?

Jesus says, in short, EVERYBODY! Even our enemies! (Luke 6:35)

We should love everybody because God loves everyone, too. (Luke 6:35)

It's easy to make friends with people you like (and that's good, too!) but Jesus challenges us to make friends even with people you don't like at first.

- Oftentimes, these people can become our best friends!
- *NOTE: Share a story about an unlikely friendship in your life*

HOW DO I MAKE A FRIEND?

Jesus says, "do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31)

Think about how you would like a friend to treat you:

- Would you like them to say hello first? Play your favorite game or sport? Talk about your favorite show or movie? Share their snack?

Whatever you came up with, now treat someone else that way!

Friendships take time to grow, but they are so worth it!

Only being friends with people you like, hating your enemies, treating other people worse than you want to be treated

Think about how you would like a friend to treat you and then treat someone else that way, brainstorm people that you could become friends with who are different than you

- What is scary about making new friends?
- Why is it worth it to make friends, even though it's scary and hard work?
- Jesus says we should be friends with our enemies. What is difficult about this? What might be some benefits to doing this?
- How would you like your friends to treat you? How could you treat someone else that same way?
- When you meet someone you'd like to become friends with, what is something you could do to begin a friendship?



FRIENDSHIP

Lesson 3: How to Make Friends

Activity

Meaning

Supplies

Instructions

Image

FRIEND BINGO

To make a friend you have to get to know someone! Today we're going to play friend bingo to get to know people in your class.

Bingo sheet printouts, pens/pencils

1. Grab a bingo sheet
2. Pick a square and find someone who has that skill, hobby, interest, etc. When you find someone who matches, write their name on the square!
3. Repeat until you have names written on an entire row, column, or diagonal
4. See who can get a bingo first!

NOTE: For larger classes, limit the number of times that each name can be on a sheet to 2.

Friend Bingo 1

I love Frozen	I use sparkly toothpaste	I have a hamster
I like Chinese food	I like broccoli	I like pizza
I play baseball	I own all the Harry Potter books	Free Space 
I have a cat	I like hamburgers	I watched Sesame Street
I like to play with Legos	I don't play my Wii anymore	I like asparagus

Friend Bingo 2

I collect coins	I don't like chocolate ice cream	I can snowboard	I like pizz:
I watched Sesame Street	I like playing Monopoly	I play soccer	I watcher Barney
I have a dog	I like broccoli	Free Space 	I floss!
I know John 3:16	I like pork chops	I have a cat	I know wh N'SYNC i:
I like to play with Legos	I have a library card	I can run a mile	I have a mouse

Friend Bingo 3

I have a library card	I have never tried coffee	I have a dog	I don't eat meat	I love Frozen
I like playing Monopoly	One Direction is my favorite band	I collect shells	I don't like chocolate ice cream	I own all the Harry Potter Books
I play baseball	I am a poker champ	Free Space 	I like hamburgers	I don't play my X-box anymore
I have a cat	I've gone camping	I watched Sesame Street	I have a scar	I can snowboard
I like to play with Legos	I can do 10 pushups	I like asparagus	I have a mouse	I know John 3:16

Friend Bingo 1

I love Frozen	I use sparkly toothpaste	I have a hamster	I play soccer	I can run a mile
I like Chinese food	I like broccoli	I like pizza	I like to play with Barbies	I floss!
I play baseball	I own all the Harry Potter books	Free Space 	I watched Dora the Explorer	I have a dog
I have a cat	I like hamburgers	I watched Sesame Street	I like playing Monopoly	I can snowboard
I like to play with Legos	I don't play my Wii anymore	I like asparagus	I have a mouse	I know John 3:16

Friend Bingo 2

I collect coins	I don't like chocolate ice cream	I can snowboard	I like pizza	I have a hamster
I watched Sesame Street	I like playing Monopoly	I play soccer	I watched Barney	I read comic books
I have a dog	I like broccoli	Free Space 	I floss!	I play baseball
I know John 3:16	I like pork chops	I have a cat	I know who N'SYNC is	I collect stamps
I like to play with Legos	I have a library card	I can run a mile	I have a mouse	I use sparkly toothpaste

Friend Bingo 3

I have a library card	I have never tried coffee	I have a dog	I don't eat meat	I love Frozen
I like playing Monopoly	One Direction is my favorite band	I collect shells	I don't like chocolate ice cream	I own all the Harry Potter Books
I play baseball	I am a poker champ	Free Space 	I like hamburgers	I don't play my X-box anymore
I have a cat	I've gone camping	I watched Sesame Street	I have a scar	I can snowboard
I like to play with Legos	I can do 10 pushups	I like asparagus	I have a mouse	I know John 3:16

Friend Bingo 4

I can do 10 pushups	I have a hamster	I know John 3:16	I like pizza	I own a yo-yo
I like to play with Barbies	I like to read	I use sparkly toothpaste	I have never tried coffee	I play baseball
I play soccer	I own all the Harry Potter books	Free Space 	I can run a mile	I have a brother
I watched Dora the Explorer	I've gone camping	I can whistle	I floss!	I love Frozen
I play paintball	I like broccoli	I have a scar	I watch TV everyday	I have a dog

Friend Bingo 5

I like to play with Legos	I can do 10 pushups	I like asparagus	I take baths, not showers	I can whistle
I watch TV everyday	I have a dog	I can do my own laundry	I know John 3:16	I have a scar
I can snowboard	I collect shells	Free Space 	I use sparkly toothpaste	I love meatloaf
I can run a mile	I have a brother	I love Frozen	I have a library card	I have never tried coffee
I floss!	I watched Dora the Explorer	I have a cat	I like playing Monopoly	I like country music



FRIENDSHIP

Lesson 4: When Friends Fight

Passage

Main Point

Intro

Supporting
Points

Antithesis

Application

Discussion

MATTHEW 7:3-5, EPHESIANS 4:31-32

Fights happen between friends, but a good friend apologizes and forgives.

What are you supposed to do when you're in a fight with your friend? Today we're going to learn what the Bible says about fights between friends.

OWNING YOUR PART

When we fight with a friend, it often feels like we didn't do anything wrong. But good friends are able to admit how they've hurt the other person.

Jesus says that we need to "remove the plank" from our own eye first

- Think about how ridiculous it would be if someone tried to fish a speck of dust out of their friend's eye with a plank sticking out of their head!

This shows that we should consider how we hurt the other person *first*.

FORGIVING THEM FOR THEIR PART

Forgiveness is a decision not to treat your friend according to what their actions deserve.

- Ex: If your friend knocked your ice cream cone onto the ground, they deserve to have their ice cream knocked down, too! Forgiveness is deciding not to "get them back."

We can forgive our friend for one thing they did because Jesus forgave us of every wrong thing we've ever done! (Ephesians 4:32)

Forgiveness happens in our hearts, but to resolve the fight we can tell our friend.

- Say, "I'm sorry for [what I did]. I forgive you for [what you did]. Do you forgive me?"
- You and your friend may need to work out a compromise. Compromise means that both people get some (but not all) of what they want.

Bad responses to a fight: blaming the other person or saying "it's not my fault", ending the friendship because of a fight, pretending like nothing happened but staying bitter, using physical violence or hurtful speech, refusing to compromise

If you're in a fight with the friend right now, think about what you have to apologize for and what you can forgive them for. Then do it! If you aren't in a fight right now, remember these things for later.

- What are some common reasons that friends fight?
- What are some common reasons that friendships end?
- For each of the following scenarios, discuss with your group how you would feel in this situation, and some good/bad ways to try and resolve.
 - You find out your friend has been telling stories about you that aren't true
 - Your friend starts acting in ways that you don't agree with (stealing, cheating on a test, bullying, etc.)
 - Your friend invites you to go swimming, but cancels at the last minute. You find out that they went swimming with someone else.
 - Two friends of yours are in a fight. They demand that you choose between them.



FRIENDSHIP

Lesson 4: When Friends Fight

Activity

Meaning

Instructions

Image

HUMAN KNOT

Fights with friends can be difficult to work out, but it's ultimately worth it!

1. Divide students into groups of 6-10 (or whole class, if the class is small)
2. Have each student put their right hand in the circle and take the hand of a person across from them. Now have them do the same with their left hand.
3. Ask the students to work together to unravel themselves WITHOUT letting go of their partners' hands. (They are allowed to adjust their grip if someone's arm gets twisted, but the placement of that grip within the knot must remain the same.)





FRIENDSHIP

Lesson 5: Friends With All

Passage

GALATIANS 3:28

Main Point

The Bible calls us to be friends with all people, not just people who are like us.

Intro

For the past 4 weeks we have been learning about how to become a good friend. Today, we're talking about who we should be friends with. The Bible says everyone!

Supporting Points

WHO SHOULD I BE FRIENDS WITH?

Jesus says that because He died for all people, we should be friends with all people. The things that normally separate us don't matter anymore because of what Jesus did.

- Hair/skin color, wealth, interests, gender, country of origin, etc.
- These differences shouldn't keep us from making a friend.

Sometimes the friendships we have with people who are different than us are the best friendships we've ever had!

GETTING TO KNOW SOMEONE DIFFERENT THAN ME

Making a friend with someone different than you is just like making any other friend.

- Love them the way that Christ loved you (encourage them, give up what you want so they can have what they want, talk about what they like, be honest, etc.)

If someone is different than you, you don't need to be intimidated. Instead, ask them questions and get to know them better.

Antithesis

Only being friends with people who you naturally like/get along with, being intimidated by people who are different than you.

Application

If there is someone in your life who is different than you, get to know that person! If they're a Christian, you at least have that in common. Love your friends who are different than you the way that Jesus would.

Discussion

- Why do you think Jesus wants us to be friends with different kinds of people?
- What would happen if you only were friends with people who were just like you?
- Do you think that making friends with someone different than you is challenging? Why or why not?
- What advice would you give someone who wants to make a friend who is different than them but is scared to do so?
- Have you ever prayed to become friends with someone who was different than you? Let's do that together!



FRIENDSHIP

Lesson 5: Friends With All

Craft

Meaning

Supplies

Instructions

Image

PAPER PLATE MAZE

Sometimes friendships are difficult to navigate. Today we're going to create our own maze!

Paper plates, straws, tacky glue, scissors, marbles

1. Design a maze on the surface of a plate by cutting up and gluing down pieces of drinking straws. Make sure the rails are far enough apart for the marble to roll through!
2. Wait until the design is dry, then test it out

