

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Today's Bible Story: We're Going to Be Friends (David and Jonathan) • *1 Samuel 20*
(supporting: *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*)

Today's Bottom Line: Friends love one another.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.*
Proverbs 17:17 (NirV)

Monthly Life App: Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help guide today's conversations and activities as kids learn and talk about what it means to be a loving friend. Pray that kids would leave today with ideas and opportunities for big and small ways they can show love to their friends.

1. Early Arriver

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pair kids up so they are sitting by someone they don't know very well.
- Instruct the kids to ask questions, starting with names, to discover something new about their friend. (*Watch for struggling kids. You might have to give some kids a few examples of questions such as "What's your favorite thing to play with at home?" Or "What is your favorite thing at school?"*)
- Then, have the kids introduce the group to their "new friend" and share a fun fact about their friend.
- As more kids arrive, switch pairs and repeat.

2. Opening Activity

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

What You Need: Beach ball or playground ball

What You Do:

- Ask the group to stand in a circle and give the ball to a kid.
- Instruct the kid to toss the ball to someone else in the circle, then ask one of the following questions to whomever catches the ball.
- When the question has been answered, the kid holding the ball tosses it to someone else.
- Prompt kids to make sure everyone gets a turn.
- Questions:
 - Would you rather eat candy or doughnuts?
 - Would you rather be the funniest person or the smartest person alive?
 - Would you rather never have to clip your toenails or never have to cut your hair?
 - Would you rather fly or be invisible?
 - Would you rather be the worst player on a winning team or the best player on a losing team?

- Would you rather eat a raw potato or a whole lime?
- Would you rather live without TV or without food?
- Would you rather have five brothers or five sisters?
- The game continues until it's time to go to Large Group. Feel free to make up some "would you rather" questions of your own, or invite kids to make some up, too!

What You Say:

"It was fun watching you throw the ball to each other and hearing your answers to the questions.

***[Transition]* Let's go hear a story about someone who sent something toward their friend to deliver a message."**

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

1. Jumbo Airplane

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

What You Need: “Story Outline” Activity Page, “Paper Airplane Folding” Activity Pages, 11 x 17 paper, pencils, markers

What You Do:

- Pass out a sheet of paper to each kid.
- Instruct the kids to write their names on the paper.
- Using the “Story Outline,” assign each kid a scene to draw from today’s story.
- When they finish, encourage the kids to take turns sharing with the group what they drew.
- Then, challenge kids to fold the best jumbo airplane imaginable either on their own or by following the instructions on the “Paper Airplane Folding” page.
- If you have kids who are particularly good at folding paper airplanes, let them know they can help their friends out!
- Once everyone has folded their planes, ask kids to pair up and decide who will pretend to be Jonathan and who will pretend to be David
- Ask the Davids to stand 10-15 feet away from their Jonathans.
- Then, the Jonathans will throw the airplanes toward their David to try and get it past him.
- If the airplane falls short, David must pick it up and bring it back to Jonathan then go back to stand in place.
- If the airplane goes past David, Jonathan must yell, “Look! The arrow is beyond you!”
- The first team to accomplish this wins!
- Let kids switch roles and play again.

What You Say:

“That was a fun game! We got to practice some great friendship skills. You helped each other create your airplanes. You also helped your teammates by bringing the airplanes back to them during the game. You were patient and kind with one another, just like Jonathan was toward his friend, David. Jonathan realized that David needed help. Jonathan could have held onto his power or wealth, and he could have even fought to be king. But instead, Jonathan chose to be kind and compassionate toward David. Think about some things that you can do to help your friends. Friends help each other because ***[Bottom Line] friends love one another.***”

*2. Friendship Tower

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Prepared blocks and chalk or markers

What You Do:

- Using nine of the giant blocks, create the base of the game on a flat surface.
 - Stack the blocks in sets of three until you have built a tower that is three layers of blocks high.
 - Each new layer of three parallel blocks should be rotated 90° along the horizontal axis.
- Place the unused blocks in the center of your small group space.
- Ask the kids to share ways they can show love to their friends. Make sure they include ideas from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.
 - Suggestions include: forgiving each other, praying for them, sharing God's love, sharing encouraging words, supporting them through difficult times, standing up for them, keeping promises, sharing time and toys, including them in things you do, not being jealous of them, being patient
- As the kids share their ideas, instruct them to pick up one of the unused blocks and a piece of chalk/marker. They write one word that represents their idea.
- Finish assembling the game when all the unused blocks have something written on them.
- End by playing Jenga® together.
- Encourage kids to work together to make the game last as long as possible.

What You Say:

"Love is an action. When we choose to encourage, share, support, forgive, and keep our promises, it brings us closer as friends. Loving a friend means you DO something for that friend. ***[Make It Personal]*** (Talk about a time you and a friend became closer by one of you doing something for the other. Maybe a friend helped you move, or you took care of a friend's dog when they were out of town.) ***[Bottom Line]*** Friends love one another. (Hold up a few of the blocks with loving ideas written on them.) Make sure you put one of these ideas into action this week."

3. Verse Hopscotch

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: "Memory Verse Phrases" Activity Page, "Verse Layout" Activity Page, hopscotch grids on the floor

What You Do:

- At the top of each hopscotch square place a strip of the "Memory Verse Phrases" by referring to the "Verse Layout."
- Divide the group in two.
- Ask each team to line up in front of one of the hopscotch grids.
- Instruct the kids to take turns hopscotching down the grid.
- As they hop into a square, they say the phrase associated with that square.
- Give the teams a few minutes to get faster with hopping and saying the verse.

- Then, tell teams they will race against each other to see who can finish first—but there is a catch!
 - The first kids from each team will compete against each other by hopping on square #1 and removing the phrase.
 - They will carry it with them while they hopscotch to the end, reciting the verse.
 - When they're done, they go to the end of the line.
 - The next kids from each team then hop through the grid while saying the verse, including the missing phrase, and also removing the phrase from square #2.
- Continue until all phrases have been removed.

What You Say:

"I love this verse! It's a powerful reminder of how important it is to love your friends at all times. It's easy to love your friends when things are going well and it doesn't cost you anything. However, in today's story, Jonathan showed his love for David by sacrificing his stuff and his right to be the king. That's not easy to do! I hope you have the opportunity this week to practice this verse through your actions. When you find ways to give up something for your friends, you show them that **[Bottom Line] friends love one another.**"

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Reflect: An activity that creates space for personal processing and application

What You Need: Blocks with "loving ideas" written on them from Activity #2

What You Do:

- Place the blocks in the center.
- Ask the kids to gather around, grab one of the blocks, and silently read it.
- When everyone is ready, open in prayer and encourage the kids to take turns saying what their block has written on it.
 - For example: "Lord, today we ask for Your help to be godly and loving friends to our friends, just like David and Jonathan were to each other. Help us to *(pause and encourage the kids to take turns reading their block)*. Help us know how to best love our friends. Amen!"

What You Say:

"A powerful way to show love to your friends is to regularly ask God to help you be a good friend to them. Be sure to pray this week for opportunities to show love to your friends in the ways you wrote on these blocks. **[Bottom Line] Friends love one another.**"