

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Today's Bible Story: I'll Be There for You (Jesus and Peter) • *John 21:1-19*
(Supporting: *John 18:1-27*)

Today's Bottom Line: Friends forgive 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. Pray that kids would see the need for and value of forgiveness, and how God can use it to heal a friendship. Ask God to bring to mind anything that needs to be forgiven or anything kids need to ask forgiveness for. Pray for wisdom and discernment as you navigate the conversation around those relationships.

1. Early Arriver

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

What You Need: Paper, pencils, pebbles, colored chalk

What You Do:

- Pair kids up and give them a sheet of paper.
- Ask one of the kids to draw a tic-tac-toe grid.
- Give each kid four small pebbles and chalk.
- Ask one of the kids to draw an "X" on all four of the pebbles and for the teammate to draw an "O" on all four pebbles.
- Guide teams to play a few rounds of backyard tic-tac-toe.

2. Opening Activity

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

What You Need: Hula hoop

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to stand in a close circle and raise their arms (shoulder height) then extend their index fingers.
- Rest the hula hoop on the tips of the kids' fingers.
- Inform the group that they must keep a fingertip on the hula hoop at all times without hooking their finger around it.
- Challenge the group to lower the hoop to the ground without talking to each other and without anyone losing contact between their finger and the hoop!

What You Say:

“That was a frustrating game; especially because you couldn’t talk to each other. Some of you figured out that the only way to win was for everyone to be in sync and lower the hoop together at the same pace. Since you couldn’t talk to each other, you couldn’t share that information! It’s important for friends to be in sync with each other. **[Transition] Lets hear a story of two friends who weren’t in sync and what happened.**”

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

1. Target Toss

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “True or False” Activity Page, painter’s tape targets, colored paper

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a different color of paper and ask the kids to wad their paper into a tight ball. *(Each kid should have one paper ball in their team’s color.)*
- Instruct the teams to line up on opposing sides of the target, with teams facing each other.
- Teams must be at least ten feet from each other. (You may want to put down a tape line in front of each team once they get into their positions.)
- Let the group know that you will ask true or false questions.
 - If the kids think the answer is true, they throw the paper ball into the “T” target.
 - If they think their answer is false, they toss the paper ball into the “F” target.
- Whichever team lands the most paper balls in the correct target for each question gets a point for that round.
- Ask the kids to retrieve the paper balls between each round and return to their positions in their team’s line to get ready for the next round.

What You Say:

“It bothered Peter that he was not a good friend to Jesus. When your friend does something to hurt you, you can’t actually erase what they did from your mind, but if you truly forgive them, you free yourself from having to always think about it and be angry about it. Forgiveness means you move on and show that friend you trust them again, just like Jesus showed Peter that He trusted him again. **[Make It Personal] (Talk about a time you restored trust with someone or someone trusted you again after you made a mistake.) [Bottom Line] Friends forgive one another.**”

NOTE: Leaders, forgiving friends is the right choice when someone says or does something unkind. But if a kid is being bullied or consistently hurt by someone who claims to be a friend, this is a completely different situation. Remind your kids to always tell a trusted adult when they need help. While we are called to love and forgive others, that doesn’t mean we need to remain in a friendship with someone who hurts us. That goes back to what we learned week one about choosing your friends carefully. For the majority of your kids, this will not be the case, but you know your few. If a kid expresses anything about a friend that sounds concerning to you, please share that information with a parent or guardian, or ask a church staff member for guidance if you don’t know the family well.

*2. Talk It Out!

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Conflict Situations” Activity Page, “Emojis” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Hold up the emoji pages one by one.
- Ask kids about the emotion that each page represents and tell them that it might be something they or their friends experience when they're hurt.
- Then, let kids help you place each of the emojis at different spots throughout your group's space.
- Read a situation from the “Conflict Situations” page and ask kids, “How would you feel in that situation?”
- Let the kids respond by quickly walking to the emoji that best fits how they think they would feel in that particular situation.
- Before moving on to the next situation, lead the kids in a quick discussion (just a sentence or two) about potential solutions to the conflict.

What You Say:

“Thank you for being open and honest about how you would feel if someone hurt you in each of these different situations. When someone hurts you, it's normal to experience lots of emotions like those on these emojis. It's difficult to get over hurt. We want to stay mad and hold onto that anger. But the truth is, when you choose NOT to forgive, you continue to hurt yourself. It might also cause you to lose a good friend. Just like Peter and Jesus talked it out, it's important to learn how to talk it out with your friends so you can fix your relationship. It's also important to learn to be wise in certain situations. If a friend repeatedly hurts you, it's okay to forgive them then walk away to protect yourself from being constantly hurt. **[Bottom Line] Friends forgive one another.**”

3. Forgiveness Brings

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Word Search” Activity Page, “Search Answers” Activity Page, pencils, Bibles

What You Do:

- Look up Proverbs 17:17 or let kids recite it from memory.
- Let a couple of volunteers share with the group what the verse means to them in their own words.
- Hand out the “Word Search” Activity Page to each kid.
- Instruct the kids to look at the list at the bottom and find the words in the word search.
- After a few minutes, let kids who have found most of the words help their friends out.
- As they work, ask them to think about the last time they forgave a friend or the last time someone forgave them.
 - Prompt kids to think about how it felt to have their friendship “fixed” through forgiveness.

- Let any kids share stories if they want to. Help them keep names out of the story, and if needed, help them move stories along if they get too bogged down on details.

What You Say:

“When you get hurt or you hurt someone, your friendships change. A friend loves at all times, and that’s why it’s important to learn to ask for forgiveness when you do something wrong. It’s equally important to learn to forgive those friends who hurt you. When you learn to ask AND give forgiveness you can experience healing, peace, calm, happiness, laughter—all the words you found in this word search.

***[Bottom Line]* Friends forgive one another.”**

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle on the floor.
- Guide kids to sit quietly and ask God to bring to mind anyone they might not have forgiven for something—anything they might be holding onto or might repeatedly get mad about.
- If they think of someone they need to forgive, have them pray silently and ask God to help them forgive that person.
- Then, guide the kids to ask God to help them see if they need to ask anyone to forgive them.
- Give them a moment to pray silently on their own, asking God to give them the courage to go to that person and ask forgiveness.
- Close with prayer.

What You Say:

“Heavenly Father, Thank You for hearing our prayers and showing us who we need to forgive and who we need to ask forgiveness from. Please, help us extend the same kind of forgiveness that You offer to our friends because ***[Bottom Line]* friends forgive one another**. Help us also have the courage to ask for forgiveness. Amen.”

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction (15 Minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. Early Arriver

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

- An offering container
- Paper; one sheet for every two kids
- Pebbles; four for each kid
- Colored chalk; at least two different colors

Note: You can let kids play tic-tac-toe with regular paper and pencils, but the chalk and pebbles will give it more of a backyard "block party" feel!

2. Opening Activity

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

- One hula hoop

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

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2*

1. Target Toss

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

- Print the "True or False" Activity Page; one for each group
- Painter's tape to create two, two-foot square targets about six feet apart. Tape a "T" beside one target and an "F" beside the other.
- Two different colors of paper, ten of each color (each kid should have a sheet in one color or the other)

***2. Talk It Out**

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

- Print the "Conflict Situations" Activity Page; one for each small group
- Print the "Emojis" Activity Pages on cardstock; one set for each small group

3. Forgiveness Brings

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

- Print the “Word Search” Activity Page; one for each kid
- Print the “Search Answers” Activity Page; one for each group
- Pencils; one for each kid

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

- No supplies needed

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.