



WEEK TWO - JULY 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *You've Got a Friend in Me • John 1:43-51*

Bottom Line: *Find friends who help you trust in Jesus.*

Memory Verse: *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." - Philippians 1:6 NIV*

Life App: *Confidence - Living like you believe what God says is true.*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: Next, we look to **John 1:43-51**. John recounts the start of Jesus ministry when he was starting to choose the 12 Disciples. One of those disciples was a guy named Phillip. Phillip was so overwhelmed when he met Jesus that he couldn't wait to tell others. Phillip found his friend Nathanael and invited him to meet Jesus. Turns out that Jesus had big plans for Nathanael too!

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing/building/designing

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Does anyone have a best friend?
 - What makes them the best?
 - Do you know any famous best friends from a movie, TV show, or book?
 - Why do you think they are such good friends?

2. My Friend is...

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Ask the kids to think of single words that describe a friend such as: nice, happy, fun, and so on.
- Begin a word-repetition game by saying, "My friend is," and then add a word that describes a friend.
- Ask the next person to repeat what you said but add another word to the end of the sentence.
- Continue around the circle, letting each child add a new word until someone forgets one of the words. Then start over.
- Here are some words to suggest if kids run out of ideas:
 - Happy

- fun
- smart
- short
- strong
- cute
- helpful
- silly
- kind
- wise
- nice
- tall
- rich
- old
- good

What You Say:

"Friends come in all shapes and sizes: tall, short, big, and small. Friends make us happy and help us when we feel sad or lonely. [Transition] Today we're going to hear about the very best thing a friend can do. Let's go to Large Group and find out."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10-9:45 | 10:40-11:15 | 12:10-12:45 - LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Find friends who help you trust Jesus. "We all need people in our life who will help us live fully alive. We want kids to figure out who, in their life is encouraging them to have faith in Jesus."*

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Can't Wait to Tell You

[Bible Story Review]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines & working as a group

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask kids to scatter around the room and then sit down far enough away from each other that they can't touch each other.
- Explain that you will whisper something about today's Bible story into someone's ear then you'll point to another child in the room.
- He must quickly run to the person you pointed to and whisper the message into his ear.
- Then he can point to someone else for the second child to go tell.
- Continue until everyone has heard the message, and then let the last child say the message out loud.
- Repeat the game several times. After each round, let kids tell you what part of the Bible story the message reminds them of.
- Here are suggestions of key points to whisper in the game as well as a few silly statements just for fun:
 - Philip faithfully followed.
 - Nathanael's name spelled backwards is Lean-ah-tan.
 - True friends truly tell the truth.
 - Philip told his friend Nathanael about Jesus.
 - Nathanael is not a spaniel.
 - **[Bottom Line] Find friends who help you trust Jesus.**

What You Say:

"When you're excited about something, you can't wait to talk about it with your friends. You want your friend to get excited too, right? That's why Philip ran to his friend Nathanael and said, 'Come and meet Jesus.' I don't think Philip whispered it in Nathanael's ear the way we did in our game. I think he was so excited that he spoke very loud and very fast because he didn't want Nathanael to miss out on meeting Jesus. Good friends want to help us know and follow Jesus. I'd say that makes Philip the best friend Nathanael ever had!"

2. Search and Find

[Application Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others & build on their understanding

What You Need: "Search and Find" Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Pass out a piece of an Activity Page to each kid. Make sure each picture you pass to a kid also has a match you have given to another kid. (If you have an odd number of kids, you can play as well.)
- Instruct the kids to hold the pictures with the blank side facing out, so others can't see what they have.
- Explain that you will be counting to five. By the time you reach five, they must find a partner to stand across from.
- After each kid is standing across from a partner, count to three, and allow kids to flip over their papers.
- If they are standing across from a partner with the same picture they have, they can step aside out of the game.
- If their pictures do not match, they must flip their pictures back over and continue playing until they find their match.
- After all kids have found their matches, encourage them to work together in their pairs to create a story of what the two friends on the paper are doing.
- Allow them to share the stories they have created with the group.

What You Say:

*"I absolutely loved the stories you created about good friends. It's always nice to have a friend you can count on. What are some examples of how you can be a friend this week? (Allow time for kids to share.) Those are all very good ideas! There are so many good things to be on the lookout for. But the most important thing I look for is to **[Bottom Line]** find friends who help you trust Jesus. Those are the friends who will hopefully be treating others like they want to be treated, because they want to be like Jesus!"*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask your few if they think it's easy or difficult to find friends who trust Jesus.
- If they think it's easy, where do they find these good friends?
- If they find it difficult, ask how they can be encouraging their friends to love Jesus.
- Ask kids to share some ideas of what friends who trust Jesus do. Suggest some examples like praying together when a friend is having a tough time, doing GodTimes and other devotionals together, being kind and loving like Jesus is, and inviting friends to church if they don't already go to church.

What You Say:

*"Dear God, I thank You so much for the friend we have in Jesus! We pray that we are able to find friends who trust You AND that we would help all of our friends grow to trust You too. Help us remember as we walk through our days that when we [Bottom Line] **find friends who help you trust Jesus, we find friends who help bring You glory! In Jesus' name, amen!**"*