



## WEEK TWO - JULY 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

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

**Key Question:** *Who encourages you to trust Jesus every day?*

**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 Philip. Philip was so overwhelmed when he met Jesus that he couldn't wait to tell others. Philip found his friend Nathanael and invited him to meet Jesus. Turns out that Jesus had big plans for Nathanael too!

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**8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - FREE PLAY**

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**9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 | 12:00-12:10 - PRESERVICE ACTIVITY**

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### **1. Just for Fun**

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

**What You Need:** "Spread the News Cards" from the Activity Page

#### **What You Do:**

- Give kids a set of "Spread the News Cards."
- Instruct kids to read the cards and rank them in the order in which they would be excited to share the news with their friends.
- Discuss why they chose the order they did. Why did they put something first? (it is important to them, it is exciting news, etc.) Why did they put something last? Are there any topics they would add that would be exciting to share with a friend?

#### **What You Say:**

*"Let's head to Large Group to hear a very important way friends should help and encourage one another."*

**Lead your group to the Large Group area.**

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

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#### **OVERVIEW:**

**Key Question:** *Who encourages you to trust Jesus every day?. Friends are a huge part of the preteen years. As these kids are figuring out who they want to hang out with, we hope this question gets them thinking about finding friends in their life who will help them grow in their relationship with Jesus.*

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

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## **1. Bible Story Extension**

### **[Application Activity]**

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation & discovery*

**What You Need:** Bibles

### **What You Do:**

- Read the Bible story as a group, John 1:43-51.
- Ask: What did Jesus say to Phillip? Why do you think Phillip ran to tell Nathanael about Jesus? (Phillip was excited, Phillip wanted Nathanael to join him following Jesus)
- Ask kids to sit on the floor with their legs bent in front of them with only the soles of their feet touching the floor.
- Challenge them to stand up without using their hands at all.
- Let them react to doing that: was it challenging? Was anyone completely unable to do it?
- Tell kids to grab a partner and sit back-to-back with them. Again, only their bottom and the soles of their feet can touch the floor.
- Challenge them to link arms and use the leverage they create to stand up.
- Ask:
  - Which way was it easier to stand up? Why was it easier?
  - What are ways some you could lean on a friend to encourage you to trust God?
  - How can a friend remind you to live like you believe what God says is true?
  - Does anyone have friends like that right now? Who are they and how do they encourage you to trust God?

## 2. Discussion Questions

### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Ask:
  - Do you have a friend who encourages you in general? How have they encouraged you? Ask kids to share their stories.
  - Now, do you have a friend who encourages you to trust God? How? Encourage kids to share stories of how their friends have helped them trust God.
  - What could you do if you don't connect with a friend who is a Christ-follower? How could you find a friend who can help you trust God?
  - What about our group here? Do we fall into the category of "friends who help you trust God"? How can we all be better friends who help our friends trust God?

## 3. Make It Personal with Prayer

### [Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Challenge kids to think of someone who encourages them to trust God, someone who speaks God's truth to them, someone who strives to obey God, or someone who worships and praises God in daily life.
- Ask kids to share why they are encouraged by this friend.
- Close in prayer.
  - Thank God for the people in our lives who draw us nearer to Him.
  - Ask for awareness to seek friends who can help us trust God.
  - Ask for guidance to be a friend who encourages others to trust God

