



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

We're Going to Be Friends
David and Jonathan
1 Samuel 20

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you show your friends they're important?

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, NIV

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.**

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
GodTime devotional for kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App



WEEK
TWO
SEPTEMBER 2020

LARGE GROUP
K-6

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

We're Going to Be Friends
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1 Samuel 20

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! I am so excited for another month here at [Name of Environment]. It is time to kick the month of September off right! I need three leaders who think that they are pretty good at throwing a frisbee! Let's play Block Party Frisbee Toss"

Host chooses three volunteers and introduces them to the rest of the group.

SLIDE: BLOCK PARTY FRISBEE

"So, you think you all can throw a frisbee pretty well? Alright, we'll see! Here's how the game works. You all see the starting tape line on the ground here? When I say go, you are going to (demonstrate without actually throwing) THROW the frisbee the direction of the taped line down there (point toward the other tape line), RUN down to the other tape line, and CATCH the frisbee. Then, you need to THROW it, RUN back to the starting tape line, and CATCH the frisbee again. The person who catches it the most times in 30 seconds wins, okay? Behind your tape lines. Ready, set, and go!"



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PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME
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25 MINUTES	10 MINUTES
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VIDEO: 30 SECOND COUNTDOWN
AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

NOTE: This should be an impossible task. Be sure that no one catches it before the tape line. If they do, remind them they have to make it past the tape line before catching it.

(At the end of 30 seconds) "Alright, how did we do? Not so great, huh? You know . . . this is probably one of those activities where two people are better than one. Let's get you some partners! I need three more volunteers!"

Call up three more volunteers and partner them up with the first three, standing at opposite tape lines across from one another.

"NOW . . . in 30 seconds, let's see how many completed passes you can make in a row. If the frisbee drops, you have to start back at zero. So be careful . . . but not too careful. Ready, set, GO!"

VIDEO: 30-SECOND COUNTDOWN
AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Provide commentary while the partners throw the frisbees back and forth. After 30 seconds, have teams report the number of successful throws and catches. Reward the winners with a prize.

"(After the game) Awesome job. There is another thing that is better to do together . . . let's stand and worship together!"

OPENER

HOST: "What's up, everybody? My name is [your name], and I'm so glad you're here at [your environment's name]. All month long, we're having a block party . . . to celebrate friendship!"

SLIDE: LIFE APP
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care.

SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"With God's help, we can choose to be good friends and share His love with others. That's the kind of party I want to be a part of!"

"We can do a LOT when we work together with our friends! Today's story is a great one that shows us what true friendship is all about. But before we get into it, let's all get on our feet and get ready to sing and worship God!"



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10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enters Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Everybody get on your feet!"

SONG 1: LET GO

"God is always with us. Each and every day, we can count on Him to help us through whatever comes our way.

"Our God is wonderful! As David wrote to God in Psalm 26:7: 'I shout my praise to you. I tell about all the wonderful things you have done.' (NIRV) Let's use this time to praise God for all the great things He has done for us. Come on and sing!"

SONG 1: THROUGH IT ALL



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25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Well, what an amazing group of people we've got here! Good to see you all. September is already off to a great start!"

"As we do that, I need a little help from a couple volunteers. Anyone up for it?"

Communicator chooses two volunteers, preferably friends.

"I'm also going to ask the Host to come out and help us out."

Host comes out.

(To volunteers) "So, are you both friends or at least have seen each other at church before? (Pause for response.)

"Awesome. *[Host's name]* and I are too. Well, I'm guessing you are familiar with a lot of the famous friends in this next game. But instead of just showing you, I'm going to let *[Host's name]* act out who they are. And if you're not getting it for a while, I'll let them use words to describe what the pair of friends is like. To get the right answer, though, you have to name BOTH friends."

"I'm going to have you put your back to the screen because the answer will be on the screen so everybody else in the room knows what the answer is. You just can't look and see it. Okay. So let's turn you away from the screen *(position volunteers so their backs are to the screen)* and let's reveal the first famous friends."

SLIDE: LIGHTNING MCQUEEN AND MATER

"Alright *[Host's name]*, start acting!"

Give Host a little while to act it out. If they are really not getting it, say "Now you can use one word at a time to describe (i.e. Car, Red, Towing, etc.)"

After each correct response, give a new pair. Play as many as you have time for.

SLIDE: BERT AND ERNIE

SLIDE: MARIO AND LUIGI

SLIDE: BATMAN AND ROBIN

SLIDE: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND WATSON

SLIDE: BUZZ LIGHTYEAR AND WOODY

(After game) "Can you thank our volunteers? Great job!"

Host and volunteers exit.



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TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “You know, it’s pretty amazing to have good friends, right? Just think about those friendship pairs mentioned during our little game. Buzz and Woody might have had their differences throughout the years, but in the end, they needed each other. Now, I have a feeling that each of us would say that we like our friends—maybe even as much as Buzz liked Woody. But I have a question. Do your friends know how much you like them? I mean, unless it’s their birthday or some other special occasion, how often do we let them know how much we really care about them? But I mean, you hang out with them, do you really have to tell them? Don’t you think they already know? Good questions. If I have a question about anything, the first place I look is the Bible. You know? Believe it or not, the writers of the Bible have a lot to say about what it means to be a good friend and give us some great examples of what good friendships look like. Let’s check out the story of a pair of close friends found in the Old Testament.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Now just out of curiosity, I’m wondering if you could get this pair from the Bible if I gave you a few keywords. King. Shepherd. Arrows. Bow. Belt. Friends. Anybody know what friends I’m describing? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“That’s right, David and Jonathan. Now if you’ve been hanging around here for a while, we talked about their story when we were doing our walk through the Bible, but we can’t talk about friendship without talking about these two! So, I’m going to ask *[Host’s name]* to come out again and help me retell this classic story of friendship, and I’m sure we’ll learn some new things along the way together. You ready?”

Communicator calls for Host. Host enters with drawing materials if he or she is not already on stage.

NOTE: Host will be drawing during the Story. The Host’s drawing skills do not matter. It will be how he or she interacts with the drawing that will help move the story along.

“Hey, *[Host’s name]*, would you help me tell the story of David and Jonathan? I was thinking, what if you drew the story here (point to whiteboard or paper) while I tell the story and we tag team it together?”

HOST: “Sounds great. I must warn you, I may or may not have won an art award in the second grade so . . . buckle up.”

COMMUNICATOR: “Okay then. Let’s do it then!”

NOTE: Host can make decisions about what to draw to keep it interesting without being distracting. Host should follow along with the script as there will be a few notes about items the Host should definitely draw because they are key to the story. The Host is certainly not limited to only these items, though.

“So let’s start with two names. And I’m going to have *[Host’s name]* write these two names on the board. Those names are ‘Saul’ and ‘David.’”

Host writes Saul and David on board.

“Now, does anyone know what these two have in common? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“Yes, they both shop at Target. No, you got it, they were both kings of Israel. In fact, Saul was the very first king and David was the second.



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"Now, do you know what other PERSON Saul and David had in common? *(Pause for responses.)*

"Right! It is the guy we mentioned at the beginning . . . Jonathan. But do you know HOW they had him in common? *(Pause for responses.)*

"So, Jonathan was Saul's son *(Host writes Jonathan under Saul's name)*, but he was David's best friend. Does anyone see how this might cause a little bit of an issue or why this was such a strange friendship?"

"Well, there was a throne . . ."

Host draws a throne.

"And in our story Saul sat on that throne as the king of Israel. Well, if something were to happen to Saul, who should be next in line? *(Pause for responses.)*

"Jonathan! That's right. But who WAS next in line? *(Pause for responses.)*

"David! You would think that would be a bit of a problem. God chose David as the next in line. But Jonathan didn't let that stand in the way of their friendship. In fact, on one occasion he gave David his robe, his sword, his bow, and his belt, symbolizing his royalty and power. That's pretty selfless.

"Well as the story continues, David was promoted to a high rank in Saul's army. You could imagine how this might have gone over with Jonathan. But Jonathan was not the one who got jealous. Actually, it was Saul. Why? Well, because people started to notice how successful David was as a military leader and they started to celebrate all his victories. And Saul began to watch David closely. And his jealousy grew more and more each day."

Host continues to draw the story.

"Think I'm exaggerating about Saul's jealousy? It actually got SO bad, that one day, Saul told his son Jonathan and his attendants to KILL David! Now what was the problem with asking Jonathan to do that? *(Pause for responses.)* Right—they were best friends. They swore a covenant to care for and protect each other. Jonathan was not going to kill David! In fact, Jonathan was going to put his own neck on the line and warn David and also talk to his father to try and talk him down a bit."

"And it worked! But not for long. Soon Saul's jealousy kicked back in and he was back at it again. He even tried to throw a spear at David while David played the harp!"

"What a crazy mess! And this is where we pick up the story. [Host's name], please keep drawing for us, okay?"

"So David fled to where Jonathan was and said, *(Read directly from 1 Samuel 20:1b, NIV) 'What have I done? What crime have I committed? I haven't done anything to harm your father. So why is he trying to kill me?'*"

"Well Jonathan just couldn't believe it, but David knew that Saul was hiding his plans from Jonathan. I mean, why would he tell his son he was trying to kill his best friend anyway?! So they came up with a plan together, and that plan involved some arrows."

Host draws three arrows.



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"The plan was for David to go and hide in a field instead of showing up at the king's table for a feast. Jonathan would then explain why David wasn't there. It would then be all about King Saul's reaction. Check out David's words. *(Read directly from 1 Samuel 20:7, NIV) 'Your father might say, 'That's all right.' If he does, it will mean I'm safe. But he might become very angry. If he does, you can be sure he's made up his mind to harm me.'*"

"So this was exactly what they did. The king didn't really think much of David not being at the feast the first day, but when David's place was empty again the next day, Saul asked where David was. Remember, this was a part of the plan. And when Saul found out, he certainly reacted."

"(Read directly from 1 Samuel 20:30, NIV) 'Saul became very angry with Jonathan. He said to him, "You are an evil son. You have refused to obey me. I know that you are on the side of Jesse's son. You should be ashamed of that. And your mother should be ashamed of having a son like you.'"

"If the choices are angry or not angry, I'm going to go with angry here. And that was not all."

"(Read directly from 1 Samuel 20:33, NIV) 'But Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father wanted to kill David.'"

"I mean, has anybody considered taking the spears away from this guy? Well, at this point, Jonathan ran out, and the next day he went out into the field where David was. This is where the arrows come in *(Point to drawing)*. See, they had arranged a sign. Jonathan would pretend to take target practice with a young boy. If he shot the arrows to one side of the stone and said to the boy 'The arrows are on this side of you,' then David was safe. But if Jonathan shot the arrows and told the boy 'The arrows are far beyond you,' then David needed to go far away because his life was in danger."

"Jonathan shot the arrows and the boy went after them. *(Read directly from 1 Samuel 20:37-38, NIV) 'The boy came to the place where Jonathan's arrow had fallen. Then Jonathan shouted to him, "The arrow went far beyond you, didn't it?" He continued, "Hurry up! Run fast! Don't stop!" The boy picked up the arrow and returned to his master.'*"

"Jonathan's message was received loud and clear by David. They said goodbye to one another with tears, and David was able to escape with his life unharmed by Saul. Jonathan's actions had saved David's life, and David would certainly never forget it. Years later, David would return the favor in an amazing way, too, by showing incredible kindness to Jonathan's family."

"Hey, can you all thank our amazing artist?"

Host bows and exits as kids applaud.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "You can really see how much David and Jonathan cared for each other as friends. There were so many times that Jonathan in particular put his own life on the line for David, not worrying about what might happen to him because he was doing what was best for his friend."

"This whole story makes me think of something the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13. Often times we hear this read at weddings, but this passage is true of friendships, too. Anywhere where we have the opportunity to show love



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

for other people . . . THESE are some good words for us. Check this out!"

"(Read from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NIV) 'Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people's wrongs. Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken. It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up.'"

"Pretty awesome, right? So much of that passage defines David and Jonathan's friendship. Regardless of the danger, Jonathan protected David. No matter the cost, Jonathan didn't look out for his own self-interest. Even though he had been chosen as king ahead of Jonathan, David didn't brag or act pridefully."

"Do you have friendships like this? Are you the Jonathan to anyone, putting that person before yourself even when it costs you? Or maybe are there times when you've been in the role of David, having a position you could brag about if you wanted to but choosing to be humble instead? Remember, friends love each other, and love is not a feeling. It is an action. So think about your friendships, be thankful for them and then ask God to help you love well as a good friend by putting others first."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR:

HOST: [Bottom Line] **SLIDE: "Friends love one another.** That's easy to say, but it's not always easy to do. If we really want to love our friends the way God wants us to, we need God's help.

"God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on a cross for our sins. He knows more about love than anyone! He can help us show love to our friends, no matter what.

"There are lots of ways to show love to your friends! Share your new toy or gadget. Let your friend choose what to do when you hang out together. Spend time with a friend who is having a hard time. If you make a promise to a friend, make sure you keep it.

"It really comes to down to something we say a lot around here: [Basic Truth] Treat others the way you want to be treated. That's how you show love to your friends!

"Today as you go to Small Group, think about this question . . ."

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION SLIDE

"**How can you show your friends they're important?** Sure, you might not have a royal coats and belts to give away, but you do have time you can spend with them or a listening ear to offer. Regardless of how you show your friends they're important, we need to remember to actually show them that they're important! If you're looking for some ideas, don't worry! You'll talk more about this in Small Group. Before you head out, though, let's **PRAY** and thank God for the amazing friends He puts in our lives."

"All right, my friends, you can head to Small Group now and talk about how you can love one another this week. I'll see you next time!"

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.