



WEEK
ONE
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
2-3

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

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Sticky notes and pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a sticky note and a pen or pencil.
- Direct the kids to think of their best friend.
- Ask:
 - What's your best friend's name?
 - What do you like about this friend?
 - What do you enjoy doing with this friend?
- Instruct the kids to write something that makes a good friend on their note.
- Direct the kids to post their note on a wall that can easily be seen.
- If kids have a hard time thinking of specific qualities, encourage them to help each other come up with ideas or write down the name of their best friend.
- Read some of their thoughts and discuss them out loud, especially if you find common patterns or themes!

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

It Takes Two

Two People Are Better than One
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose your friends carefully.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You all had a lot of wonderful things to say about your friends! The great thing is, we can have lots of best friends—not just one! Who wants to share something about their best friend? Who are they? What makes them such a great friend? *(Invite responses.)*

"Wow, those sound like some great friends! Even though we may all have different friends, we also all have a friend in Jesus. What makes Jesus such a great friend? *(Invite responses.)* Those are great reasons! **[Transition] Today, we'll hear a story about a person who understood that life is better with a friend. Let's go!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



*** 2. BUILD-A-FRIEND**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Build-a-Friend" Activity Pages, kid scissors, coloring materials, and glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid both pages from the "Build-a-Friend" Activity Page and a pair of scissors.
- Set out the coloring materials and glue sticks.
- Invite kids to look over the clothing options and decide which qualities they'd like their friend to have.
- Direct the kids to cut out a shirt, pants, shoes, and hat and glue them on their friend.
- Instruct the kids to color the rest of their friend to complete the picture.
- Invite the kids to share their friend with the group, sharing why they chose those specific qualities.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow, you all made some really wonderful friends! It's clear that you were thinking about **choosing your friends carefully**. Some were funny and brave, others were kind and giving. Even though all of your friends were different, they all had wonderful qualities that made them good friends!

"Even Jesus showed us how important it is to have friends when He chose His twelve disciples. If Jesus needed friends in His life, then we do, too!"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

It Takes Two

Two People Are Better than One
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose your friends carefully.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV**

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. ALL IN MOTION
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Proverbs 17:17 using the Bible

navigation tips below.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find "Proverbs" in the list under "Old Testament." When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 17. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 17 in chapter 17.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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- Invite the kids to read the verse out loud with you several times.
- Divide your group into smaller groups.
- Assign each group a different part of the verse.
- Invite each group to create hand motions that correspond to their part of the verse.
 - For example:
 - "A friend (Hook elbows with a neighbor.)
 - loves (Place hands to heart.)
 - at all times. (Point to a pretend watch on your wrist.)
 - They are there (Point down.)
 - to help (arms outstretched)
 - when trouble comes." (Shiver, as if scared.)
 - Proverbs 17:17 (Open hands like a book.)
- Going through the verse in order, invite each group to share their hand motions.
- Instruct the kids to repeat the memory verse with the motions a few times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We talked a lot about friendship today, and our memory verse is here to remind us what a friend is. A friend does what? (Invite responses.) That's right, a friend LOVES! How often does a friend love? (Invite responses.) You got it, 'at all times'! When does a friend help? (Invite responses.) Yes, 'when trouble comes.'"

"It's important to **choose your friends carefully** and pick those who encourage you, help you, and love like Jesus. And the best way to GET a good friend is to BE a good friend!"



WEEK
ONE

SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

It Takes Two

Two People Are
Better than One
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God wants to be friends with us. WOW! And He wants us to be friends with each other. Even Jesus showed us how important it is to have friends when He chose His twelve disciples. And if Jesus needed friends, we certainly do, too!

"And you know what? The best way to get a good friend is to BE a good friend. Be friendly and kind to everyone. But look for someone who enjoys things you enjoy and makes wise choices. Look for someone who loves like Jesus. Keep your eyes open at school and church, and maybe invite a kid you don't know well to play a game or be in your group. Because having a good friend can make all the difference in the world. Let's pray.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose your friends carefully.

"Dear God, thank You SO much that You are our best friend! Please help us be good friends to those around us and help us choose our friends carefully. Because having good friends makes all the difference! We love You, Lord. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, help kids share today's Bottom Line. **Choose your friends carefully.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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They are there to help when trouble
comes."
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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

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