



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: "Unpopular Opinion" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Stand at the front of the circle.
- Tell kids you'll read an opinion that they might not agree

with.

- If a kid agrees with the opinion you read, direct them to stand up at the front of the group with you.
- If a kid doesn't agree with the opinion you read, invite them to stay seated.
- Read an opinion from the "Unpopular Opinion" Activity Page.
- Allow time for the kids to stand with you or remain seated.
- After all kids have made a choice, instruct everyone to take a seat.
- Continue until all of the Unpopular Opinions have been shared.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I think we learned a lot about each other today! How did it feel when I read some of these opinions? (*Invite responses—surprising, funny.*) How did it feel when you agreed with an opinion and had to stand up next to me? (*Invite responses—brave, nervous.*) Sometimes, it might feel a little hard to stand up for something—especially when you're the only one standing. **[Transition] Today, we'll hear about a friend who stood up for someone he believed in. Let's go!"**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'll Stand by You

Barnabas and Saul
Acts 9:26-30

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends stand up for one another.

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

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



WEEK
THREE
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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. HOPSCOTCH VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible and VELCRO® floor circles or floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Create a winding path of spots on the ground using floor circles or floor tape.
 - If using the NlrV, create 14 spots.
 - If using the NIV, create 16 spots.
- Invite the kids to line up behind the spots.
- Look up Proverbs 17:17 in the Bible and read it out loud to the kids.
- Instruct the kids to hop from one spot to the next, saying the next word in the memory verse as they do.
- Be available as a reference to help the kids remember a word as they need help.
- When the kids reach the end of the path and jump off the last spot, instruct them to shout, "Proverbs 17:17!"
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job of practicing your memory verse today! It's true, a friend loves at all times, and that means that **friends stand up for one another**. There are often opportunities for us to show support, kindness, and encouragement to our friends if we're looking for those chances. We can help when trouble comes, even if that means we need to be the one to shut down gossip or tell the truth about someone. After all, **friends stand up for one another!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'll Stand by You

Barnabas and Saul
Acts 9:26-30

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

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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



4. PRAYER Bells

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Jingle bells, ribbon or pipe cleaners

WHAT YOU DO:

- Remind kids that they can pray at ALL times—even throughout the day!
- Tell them that you'll make prayer bells to remind them to pray when they hear them.
- Set out the jingle bells, and ribbon or pipe cleaners.
- Invite the kids to string a few jingle bells on ribbon or pipe cleaner.
- Once the kids are finished, brainstorm together places where they can place their bells so they can hear them.
 - For example, on their backpack, shoes, back of their door, hat, pencil case, etc.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, thank You for being a friend who we can talk to at all times. Thank You for giving us Jesus, the best friend of all! As Jesus shows us, **friends stand up for one another**. Help us have the courage to speak the truth about our friends, the heart to encourage our friends, and the eyes to see when our friends are lonely and invite them in. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As the adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their prayer bells and share that the bells will remind them to pray whenever they hear the jingle!

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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BASIC TRUTH

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WEEK
THREE
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:

- Guide kids to stand in a circle and link elbows.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in

prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“The most important thing to remember today is **friends stand up for one another**. Speaking up for your friends can make a BIG difference. Maybe you hear a kid saying something mean or untrue about a friend or classmate. If you stand up for your friend, it can change everything. And when you choose to use your voice to stand up for someone, who knows how you’ll change the world?”

(Lead kids in a responsive prayer, guiding them to say the Bottom Line when you cue them. Practicing a couple times before you pray can help.)

“Dear God, Thank You that with Your help, we can stand up for our friends.
Friends stand up for one another.

“Give us courage to stand up and say what’s right. **Friends stand up for one another.**

“Give us courage to stand up and say what’s kind. **Friends stand up for one another.**

“Give us courage to stand up and say what’s true. **Friends stand up for one another.**

“Thank You SO MUCH that YOU stood up for US by sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. We love You SO MUCH, Lord. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today’s Bottom Line and tell one way they’ll stand up for a friend this week. **Friends stand up for one another.**

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