



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Choose one kid in the circle to go first.
- Direct them to come up with a short phrase and whisper it in the ear of the kid next to them.
- Instruct each kid to listen to what was told to them, then try to whisper what they heard to the kid next to them in the circle, until the phrase travels around the circle.
- Direct the last kid to hear the phrase to say it out loud.
- See how close you got to the original phrase the first kid whispered!
- Continue to play the game as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Wow, that was a lot of fun! It was interesting to hear how the message changed from the beginning to end. Isn't it amazing how much a message can change, just a little at a time, until it's totally different? That can sometimes happen to us, too! Sometimes, we hear something about someone and it gets passed along and changed along the way. **[Transition] Today, we'll hear how important it is to be reminded of what is true when it comes to another person!**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive 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
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



***2. FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS**
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Embroidery floss; red, yellow, and blue beads; and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cut the embroidery floss in bracelet length for all kids.
- Set out the beads.
- For kids who are ready to braid, cut them three strands of equal length embroidery floss.
 - Demonstrate how to tie a bead at one end as a knot.
 - Demonstrate how to braid embroidery floss and add beads to create a bracelet.
 - Encourage the kids to use all three colors of beads.
- For kids who aren't ready to braid, allow them to stack the beads on their bracelet.
- Encourage them to use all three colors.
- Explain what the colored beads represent on the friendship bracelet.
 - Red represents promises. Good friends keep their promises.
 - Yellow represents encouragement. Good friends stand up for each other.
 - Blue represents forgiveness. Good friends forgive each other.
- As the kids make their bracelets, unpack what each color represents using the example conversation below.
- Note: For those who find it a bit more challenging to incorporate the beads, use red, yellow, and blue embroidery floss.
- Watch this YouTube video for assistance on how to make the bracelets: <https://bit.ly/42Pljv>

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"We learned a lot about friendship this month! Our friendship bracelets can remind us what we've learned. When you look at your bracelets, remember these parts of friendship. The red bead represents promises. Good friends make promises that they can keep, and make them from their hearts. Friends keep their promises.

"The yellow bead represents encouragement. Good friends encourage their friends. They include their friends. They tell the truth about their friends. Friends stand up for one another.



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FOUR
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SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* 2. FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS CONTINUED)

“The blue bead represents forgiveness. That’s what we talked about today! It’s important that good friends forgive each other when they make mistakes or hurt their feelings. **Friends forgive one another.**”

“Even though God wants us to forgive our friends, that doesn’t mean that we let someone continue to hurt us. If someone keeps hurting us, it’s important to tell a safe adult—like a teacher, parent, or a church leader. But in most cases, we can forgive others and move forward in our friendship, and our friendships get stronger and stick together!”



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. AT ALL TIMES

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Proverbs Pantomime" Activity Pages and Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Distribute the Bibles and help kids look up and read the verse using Bible navigation tips below.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to "Proverbs" at the top of the page as you say "Proverbs." Then guide kids to find the big number 17 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 17 for the little 17; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st 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." You can help by telling them that Proverbs starts with the letters P-R. 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.

- Review the motions for *friend*, *loves*, *help* (NIRV), and *trouble*.
- Teach the motion for all.
- Briefly unpack that "all times" means that friends love and forgive each other no matter what—even when they annoy us or hurt our feelings.
- Practice signing the full verse a few times with the kids.
- Then guide kids to 'pass' the verse around the circle, with each kid saying and signing the verse to the kid beside them.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God wants you to always treat your friends with kindness, even if they don't agree with you about everything—and even if they annoy you or hurt your feelings. When that happens, God can help you put up with one another. Because you can only live in true peace and friendship with others when you choose to forgive. **Friends forgive one another.**"

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FOUR
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2-3

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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: Friendship bracelets from "Friendship Bracelets" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has their friendship bracelet.
- Instruct the kids to hold their friendship bracelets as they pray.
- Remind kids what each bead stands for:
 - Red = Promises
 - Yellow = Encouragement
 - Blue = Forgiveness
- Remind kids they can pray for their friends and ask God to help them grow in whatever areas they need help.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, thank You so much for the friends You've put in our lives. Thank You for the opportunity to be a good friend for others. Please help us keep our promises and know which promises are worth making. Please help us be brave and encouraging as we stand up for our friends. Help us be quick to forgive others and not hold on to our hurts. We know that **friends forgive one another**, just like You forgive us for our mistakes. We thank You for everything You've done and everything You will do. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their friendship bracelets and share what the different colors represent.

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