



# HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK  
**ONE**

SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO CONNECT

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



## 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What makes a good friend?
- Think about the friends you have. Why do you think they have chosen to be friends with you?
- Have you ever had to end a friendship with someone?
- Is it difficult to choose friends carefully?
- Why are friendships important?

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### It Takes Two

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

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What makes someone a good friend?

## 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

I need to make the wise choice.



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## MADE TO MOVE

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



## 4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** White boards, dry erase markers, bandanas or scarves, Bibles

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into two teams and line each team up on one side of your group space. Place a Bible at the beginning of each line.
- Place the two white boards and markers on the opposite side.
- Hand a bandana or scarf to the first person in line for each team and instruct them to tie one of their legs to a leg of the person in line behind them.
- Explain that when you say, "Go!" the first two kids from each team will walk, tied together, to their white board.
- The person who was first in line will use the marker to write the first word of Proverbs 17:17 on the board. (They can use their team's Bible if they need to.)

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***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from Proverbs. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (Old) So we know it's toward the front of the Bible. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 17. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 17 in chapter 17.*

- Then they will walk back to their line.
- They will untie their bandana, and the kid who was first in line will go to the end of their line. The other kid will then tie one of their legs to the next person in line. They will walk together to the white board, write the next word of the verse on the board, and then return to their line.
- They will repeat this routine until every word of the verse has been written on the board. They should work together as a team to remember which words come next.
- The first team to finish writing the entire verse is the winning team.
- Ask the following questions:
  - Do you think it was easier or more challenging to complete the task of writing the verse while being tied to each other? (Point out that it may have been challenging being tied to each other, but they were able to help each other remember what words came next in the verse. Not everything about friendship is easy! It can bring its own set of challenges.)
  - Do you think it made the game more fun playing this way? (Be sure to point out if there were any particularly silly moments during the race, or times where you noticed partners helping each other out.)
- Invite the group to read the verse out loud together. Remind kids how important it is to choose carefully when it comes to their friends. One way they can do that is by remembering the advice and wisdom God has given us through verses like this one. And one of the reasons we have church is so we can find people who can help us with that!



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## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



## 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Index cards, pens or pencils, bowl or cup

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle and hand each kid an index card and a pen or pencil.
- Place the bowl or cup in the middle of the circle.
- Ask kids to think of something they would like prayer for in the week ahead.
- Explain this should be something they feel comfortable sharing with the group.
- Tell them to write that prayer request down on their index card, fold it, and place it in the bowl or cup in the center of the circle.
- Once every kid has had a chance to place their card in the bowl, shake it up to shuffle the cards around. Hand the bowl to a kid.
- Tell them to choose a card and then pass the bowl to the kid next to them. Continue passing the bowl around the circle until every kid has chosen a card.
- Lead kids through a group prayer, letting each kid take turns praying out loud for the person whose card they received.
- After praying, remind kids how praying for our friends can strengthen and deepen our relationships with each other. Encourage them to take the card they drew home so they can pray for that person throughout the week.

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