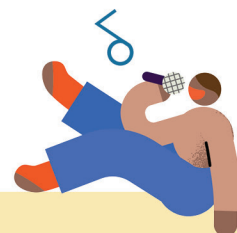




Use this guide to help your family learn about friendship.



Talk About the Bible Story

Do you think it's important to have friends? How can having a friend make your life better or happier?

Who are some of your friends or people you like spending time with?

What are some qualities of a good friend? (*Kindness, honesty, loves Jesus, treats adults and others respectfully*)

Why do you think it's important to choose your friends carefully?

Parent: Talk about how one of your friends encourages you to be more like Jesus. They may encourage you with Bible verses, set an example of doing what Jesus would do, or pray with you. Go beyond generalities and tell your child about a specific example.



Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

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

Activity

Friendly Choices

What You Need:

Painter's or masking tape (or anything that your child can safely jump across, like an extension cord or phone charger)

What You Do:

Create a line with the tape in the middle of the room, and invite your child to play a game. Say, "I'll give you two choices. Each side of the tape represents one of the answers. To answer the questions, you'll jump to either side of the tape. Ready?"

Work through the following questions. Make sure you point to the left or the right side of the tape to represent which side represents each answer.

- Would you rather have a friend who:
- has a pet dinosaur OR has a pet unicorn?
 - can swim like a fish OR can fly like a bird?
 - doesn't like pizza OR doesn't like ice cream?
 - lives in a castle OR lives in a spaceship?
 - gives you free tickets to cool concerts OR gives you free tickets to cool sporting events?
 - Never, ever gets in trouble OR always gets in trouble?
 - can't stop laughing OR can't stop crying?
 - knows all the answers to tests OR knows all the codes and tips for video games?

When you're finished, say, "Some choices are easy to make, and some choices are hard. Just remember, it's very important to choose your friends carefully."

First, watch this week's video at kidscity.org

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

Memory Verse

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

Bible Story

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

Bottom Line

Choose your friends carefully.



First, watch this week's video at [kidscity.org](https://www.kidscity.org)

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

Memory Verse

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

Bible Story

Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

Bottom Line

Friends forgive one another.



Use this guide to help your family learn about friendship.

Activity

Friendly Forgiveness

What You Need:

Dry erase board and marker; or a piece of paper, pencil, and eraser

What You Do:

Ahead of time, think of a time when you had to forgive a friend when they did something that hurt your feelings. This should be something simple and kid-appropriate (not too serious or heavy).

Say to your child, "Let me tell you about a time when a friend hurt my feelings . . . and I had to forgive them." On the dry erase board (or piece of paper), draw a picture to represent what happened as you describe it. Then erase the board (or piece of paper), and explain that you chose to forgive and "erase" what had happened.

Now give your child a chance to share about a time when a friend hurt their feelings. Maybe a friend didn't invite them to their birthday party. Or maybe a friend ignored them, or played with another friend and excluded them.

Encourage your child to draw a picture of that situation on the dry erase board (or piece of paper). Then encourage your child to erase the board (or piece of paper) to demonstrate how they forgave their friend—or how they can choose to forgive.

When you're finished, say, "The truth is, people are going to do and say things that bug us or hurt our feelings—even our friends! One of the most important ways to BE a good friend and KEEP a good friend is to be quick to forgive. Forgiving doesn't mean that what they did was okay—and it DOESN'T mean that it's okay to let someone KEEP hurting you. It just means that you're choosing to let go of what happened instead of carrying it with you. Remember that God is always there to help us forgive."



Talk About the Bible Story

How does it feel when a friend hurts our feelings?

Why is it important to forgive our friends?

Does forgiving someone mean that what they did was okay?

Can you think of a time when someone has forgiven you?

Is there anyone you need to forgive right now?

Take time to read Colossians 3:13 together from the Bible.



Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, Your love is more amazing than we can imagine! Thank You SO much for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Thank You for making a way for us to be forgiven. Help us remember that You forgave us so we can be quick to forgive others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."