

Harmony: Together is better



**First, watch
this week's
video!**

**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.

Use this guide to help your family learn about friendship.

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."

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."

Harmony: Together is better



**First, watch
this week's
video!**

**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

David and
Mephibosheth
1 Samuel 19-20;
2 Samuel 9

Bottom Line

Friends keep
their promises.

Use this guide to help your family
learn about friendship.

Activity

Pick Your Promise

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Invite your child to play a game.

Say, "I'll give you two promises. You choose which promise would be harder to keep to a friend. Ready?"

Which promise would be harder to keep to a friend?

- A promise to share your toy, or a promise to share your snack?
- A promise to sit together at lunch, or a promise to play together at recess?
- A promise to play to kickball together, or a promise to learn a new video game together?
- A promise to let them go first in line, or a promise to let them choose which game you play?
- A promise to help them with their homework, or a promise to help them with their soccer skills?

When you're finished, say, "The important thing to remember today is that friends keep their promises! Keeping your promises helps build trust between you and your friends. It also helps your friendship grow."



Talk About the Bible Story

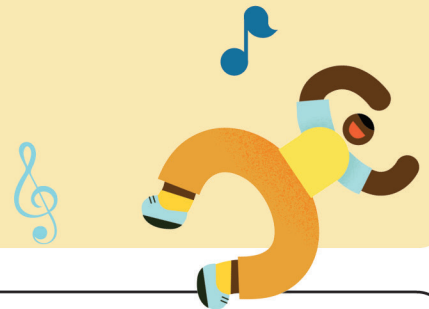
Who kept their promise in our story today, and how?
(David kept his promise to Jonathan by being kind to Jonathan's son Mephibosheth.)

Why is it important to keep our promises to our friends?

Have you ever had a friend not keep their promise?
How did that feel?

How can you remember to keep a promise to a friend?

Parent: Tell your child one way that you'll keep a promise to a friend this week, whether by keeping a promise to call them on the phone, go to lunch together, or go for a walk together.



Prayer

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

"Dear God, You always keep Your promises. Thank You for keeping Your promise to send Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. We love You SO much, Lord. Help us be more like You and to be friends who keep our promises. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

Harmony: Together is better



**First, watch
this week's
video!**

**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

Barnabas and Saul
Acts 9:26–30

Bottom Line

Friends stand up for one another.

Use this guide to help your family learn about friendship.

Activity

Take a Stand

What You Need:

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Invite your child to play a game.

Say, "I'll read a list of situations that you and a friend might experience together. For each scenario, you'll sit down while you think about how you could stand up for your friend in that situation. Then stand up and give me your answer. Ready?"

Situations:

- You're on the playground and an older kid starts making fun of your friend.
- You're at the water fountain with your friend. After you drink your water, a kid comes up to the water fountain and takes your friend's turn. This keeps happening again and again, and your friend can't get to the water fountain.
- During class, you're asked to get into groups for a project. You look around and see that your friend hasn't been chosen to be in a group.
- Someone gives your friend a "nickname" that isn't very nice.
- A kid in your class breaks the teacher's stapler. When the teacher asks what happened, the kid blames your friend.

When you're finished, say, "Great job! Those were tough situations for sure. When your friends need help, you can stand up for them."

Talk About the Bible Story

How did Barnabas stand up for Saul in our story today? *(He helped the believers understand that Saul now believed in Jesus, and that they could trust him.)*

Have you ever had a friend stand up for you? What happened?

Is there a friend you can think of who needs someone to stand up for them?

Are there times when you might need to get an adult's help in order to stand up for a friend? *(Yes; you should never put yourself in danger to help a friend. Sometimes speaking up to an adult is the best way to stand up for a friend.)*

Parent: Tell your child about a time when you stood up for a friend—or a time when a friend stood up for you. Tell your child how that made you feel. If possible, also tell how it made a difference.

Prayer

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

"Dear God, please give us the courage we need to stand up for our friends—to say what's right and what's true. Help us to remember that friends stand up for one another. Thank You for standing up for US by sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. We love You! In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

Harmony: Together is better



Use this guide to help your family learn about friendship.



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."

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."

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.