
FRIENDSHIPS

UNIT OVERVIEW

Friends play important roles in our lives. They give us guidance, support and love. The friends we choose can lift us up or pull us down. They can pull us away from God or draw us closer to him. Our choice of friends can ultimately affect where we spend eternity.

This unit examines friends from a variety of viewpoints. Your students will learn that their most important friendship must be with Jesus. They will also learn and practice the basics of great friendships—choosing great friends at school and becoming close to preteen classmates. Your students will also begin to come together as a unified group as they come to understand that great friendships are essential to building a great preteen team.

UNIT GOALS

- The students will understand that their best friendship must always be with Jesus.
- The students will learn and exhibit the qualities of a great friend.
- The students will grow in unity and friendship with their preteen classmates.

UNIT CONTENTS

LESSON 1 SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

ACTS 4:13

No friendship will have a greater impact on the students' lives than their friendship with Jesus. By looking at the impact that Jesus had on Peter's life, the students will understand how much Jesus can help them to build convictions and to change.

LESSON 2 PEER PRESSURE

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 13:20

In this lesson, the students will learn that the friends they choose can play a part in determining where they will spend eternity. The example of Ruth and Naomi will show your students the qualities of a great friend, and will help them to appreciate friends who can lead them toward God.

LESSON 3 BEING A TEAM

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 12:5

Jesus' twelve apostles were a great example of a diverse group of individuals who eventually grew together in purpose to begin the first-century church. This lesson will present the qualities of an effective team, and will help the preteens grow together in spirit, friendship and purpose.

LESSON 4 BUILDING DEEP RELATIONSHIPS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

True friendships are based on respect, love and selflessness. The students have likely experienced "on-again, off-again" friendships. The relationship of Jonathan and David shows them the characteristics of true friends. It will challenge them to examine the quality of their relationships.

LESSON 5 COMMUNICATION

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

JAMES 1:19

The best kind of friend listens carefully and non-judgmentally, and then speaks wisely and with great love. In this lesson, the story of Samuel will help the students understand the concept of Biblical speaking and listening.



Preteens



Preteens

Dear Parent,

On the reverse side of this page you will find an outline and description of the lessons which comprise this unit. The weekly Scripture Memory Verse is listed with each lesson synopsis.

As part of the class experience, students are given a weekly challenge. Below is a list of the challenges given with the lessons:

LESSON 1 SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Weekly Challenge: Commit to a certain action to show your family how much Jesus is changing you. Then do it!

LESSON 2 PEER PRESSURE

Weekly Challenge: Identify a friend who helps you make great choices, and express your appreciation to this friend.

LESSON 3 BEING A TEAM

Weekly Challenge: Figure out ways to achieve as many as possible of the following goals during the week with your partner:

- pray together
- worship and praise God together
- share your faith together
- do chores or serve together
- relax and have fun together
- seek advice from each other

LESSON 4 BUILDING DEEP RELATIONSHIPS

Weekly Challenge: Make a plan and get together at least once this week with your partner to spend fun time together and to build your friendship.

LESSON 5 COMMUNICATION

Weekly Challenge: Make a plan to practice godly listening and talking with a family member and a person at school. Follow through with the plan.

Your active involvement outside the classroom is essential and will truly make the Kingdom Kids Curriculum a great success for your child. Here are some suggested ways for you to reinforce these lessons at home:

- Share with your child what your personal friendship with Jesus means to you.
- Share with your child the ways that your friendships with other disciples help you to grow and change to be more like Jesus.
- Review the memory verse before bedtime, at dinner or while riding in the car.
- While eating dinner, talk about something that your child really enjoyed about Bible class this week.
- Ask your child to share with you how he or she is doing with the weekly challenge. Give encouragement or direction as needed.
- Have a family devotional using the memory verse (or parallel verses) this week.
- Don't forget to encourage your child as he or she uses the Preteen Quiet Time Book that gives daily support for the lesson of the week.
- Allow your child to share with younger siblings what he or she is learning in class.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:5-7

We look forward to being partners with you as we help *Generation Next* to be zealous and effective as they move forward the kingdom of our God.

Thank you,

Your child's teachers