
FRIENDSHIP II

UNIT OVERVIEW

Unit 14 examines the importance of relationships in God's church. In this unit, the students will look at several different facets of friendship. As the lessons progress, the students will come to understand that true friendship is never superficial or easy. Rather, relationships in God's kingdom are deep, challenging and uplifting. Each one takes hard work, love, humility and much prayer. With each lesson, the students will be challenged to evaluate their own relationships and to work toward making each one a friendship that brings glory to God and to his church.

UNIT GOALS

- The students will understand the importance of unity within the church.
- The students will learn and practice how to help each other grow spiritually.
- The students will become more encouraging and positive in their relationships with each other.

UNIT CONTENTS

LESSON 1 – UNITY IN RELATIONSHIPS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 133:1

Jesus' prayer in John 17 tells us that unity is vital in order for us to fulfill our purpose of winning the world for Christ. The church cannot survive without a unified body striving to achieve its common goal. Using the example of Nehemiah, this lesson will show students how Satan schemes to cause disunity in their relationships and in the church, and what the consequences of that disunity can be. With this understanding, the students will be challenged to focus on their own friendships and to work toward greater unity in the group.

LESSON 2 – ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

HEBREWS 3:13

Everyone likes to be encouraged. When we are struggling spiritually, encouragement can lift us up and help us move forward. When we are doing well, encouragement can help us to rise to new challenges and to dream greater dreams. In this lesson, the students will examine the life of Barnabas and his gift for encouraging others for the good of the kingdom. They will also have several opportunities to practice encouragement in their own relationships.

LESSON 3 – PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

MARK 1:17

We have all heard the saying that "two heads are better than one." This concept is especially true in the church. While any disciple can work on his own to accomplish our purpose, the task becomes much easier and much more enjoyable when a partner shares the load. Priscilla and Aquila were a married couple who are noted in Acts as Paul's partners in the gospel. Their example will help your students understand that working together with one purpose will help us to be more effective in reaching the world for Christ.

LESSON 4 – HELPING EACH OTHER

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

PROVERBS 27:17

Just as a seed needs the care of the sower to grow, each of us needs someone to help us grow in Christ. Satan's schemes can cloud our perception of where we stand spiritually, but a true friend will always help us to see the reality of sin. In this lesson, the students will learn that, by speaking the truth in love, we can help each other grow to be the man or woman that God desires each of us to be.



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 UNITY IN RELATIONSHIPS

Weekly Challenge: Select one person with whom you generally have conflict or someone in your preteen class that you don't know well. Make a plan to resolve your differences with the first person or to get to know the second person better. Carry out that plan during the week.

LESSON 2 ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER

Weekly Challenge: Find three different ways to encourage three people in your life during this week. If you need help or suggestions, ask your teacher or your parents.

LESSON 3 PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

Weekly Challenge: Invite to church the two friends whose names you wrote down during the fishing game. Work with a partner in the gospel for encouragement and effectiveness.

LESSON 4 HELPING EACH OTHER

Weekly Challenge: This week, pray every day for your "buddy," according to the items mentioned on his or her prayer list. Call your buddy during the week to see how things are going and to encourage one another.

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:

- Talk with your child about how important unity is in your family. Do a family devotional in which you tell every child to decide how they want to play a certain game (outlandish rules). Tell them not to give in to their brothers or sisters when they all discuss playing the game. Stop them before they get upset with each other, and make the point about the need for unity in order to accomplish anything.
- Share with your child how someone has helped you to grow. Be as specific as appropriate.
- Find ways to encourage your child to invite school or sports friends to church. Plan to do something special afterwards.
- 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