

# Friendship means using your words and actions to show others you care.

WEEK  
1  
2ND-3RD

DAY 1

## Read Proverbs 13:20

Let's talk about friendship! Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care. Write down the names of a few of your friends.

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Did you know that God has something to say about the friends we choose? Friends can play a big role in the decisions we make. If a friend starts to laugh or say unkind things about someone else, you might join in too. If a friend asks you a question when the teacher is talking, you'll probably be tempted to answer and miss your teacher's instructions.

Wise friends can help you become wiser. Let's choose friends who are kind, helpful, forgiving, encouraging, and patient. When you do, you'll be tempted (in a good way!) to be more kind, helpful, forgiving, encouraging, and patient right back! So, remember, choose your friends carefully.

**Spend some time today thanking God for the friends on your list.** Ask God to help you be a good friend so that you can help others grow wise too.

DAY 2

## Read Proverbs 12:26

Let's pretend it is ice cream day at school. You happily line up, already tasting that creamy cold sugary goodness on your tongue. When you finally get to the front, you spot the last little container of chocolate—your favorite. You grab that cup with the small wooden spoon and smile widely all the way back to your seat.

What do you think is more important? The flavor of ice cream we choose or the friends we choose? Friendships are way more important than ice cream flavors. Why? Because friends have influence. Influence means to have an effect on someone's character, development, or behavior.

**We need to choose friend who will be a good influence.** That's why it's important to choose friends who will lead us in the right direction. So when you think about your friends, remember how careful you are about the ice cream you choose and be intentional with friendships too!

Spend some time today thanking God for ice cream and friendships! Ask Him to help you choose friends that will lead you in the right direction.

Choose your friends carefully.

DAY 3

### Read Proverbs 22:24-25

What happens if you take a bottle or can of soda pop and shake it up before you open it? Yep, better get out of the way! The carbonation inside will cause that soda to spew out the minute you release the pressure by opening the top of that bottle or can!

Do you know anyone who seems to get mad pretty easily? They respond to things almost like that bottle of soda pop. If something happens to shake them up, they might just blow up at all the people around them.

**That's why it's important to choose your friends carefully.** Because we pick up the behaviors of the people around us, good and bad! Spending time with someone who gets angry easily might mean that you become someone who blows up all the time too.

Write the words of today's verse on a small scrap of paper and tape it around a can or bottle of soda pop in your fridge. When someone in your family decides to drink it, share the verse and talk about why it's important to choose your friends carefully. But don't shake it up first!

**Ask God to help you choose friends that aren't easily angered.**

DAY 4

### Read Proverbs 18:24

Do you know what the word faithful means? Faithful means loyal, constant, and steady. A faithful friend is a friend who sticks by you, a friend who is there when things are awesome and when things are hard.

Do you have a faithful friend? A friend who cheers you up when you're sad? A friend who encourages you when you're down? A friend who makes you laugh when it's the very last thing you want to do?

When it comes to the friends we choose, let's look for friends who stick with us, no matter what. Let's choose friends who are always there, ready to help when we need it most. And remember, to have good friends, you need to be a good friend. Be a loyal and steady friend who can be counted on too.

**Interview a parent or another adult today and ask the following questions:**

1. Who is your best friend and why?
2. Read Proverbs 18:24 together. What do you think this verse means?
3. What does it mean to be a faithful friend?

Pray today with the person you interviewed and ask God to help you be a faithful friend and to choose faithful friends too.

# Friendship means using your words and actions to show others you care.

WEEK  
2  
2ND-3RD

DAY 1

## Read Proverbs 17:17

Are you learning about verbs at school? Verbs are action words. So, here's a little exercise. Circle the action words in the sentences below.

- Sam runs around his town for exercise.
- Destiny loves to dance.
- Celia helps her mom with dinner.

Did you underline runs, dance, and helps? Great job—you found all the verbs. Now take a look at the first sentence from your verse today. What is the action word? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, a friend loves. The verb or action is love. Friends choose to love. When the friend is sad, when the friend is quiet, when the friend is talking a lot and when the friend wants to play a game you really dislike. Friends love. It's what friends do. You can show love as you play, as you listen, as you dance, and as you get a job done.

What are some ways you can show love to your friends this week? Write down three specific ideas in the space below.

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Ask God to help you follow through to show love to your friends in the specific ways you've written down. And also, spend some time thanking God for loving you, always.

DAY 2

## Read 1 Peter 4:8

Do you know what the word "deeply" means? To love one another deeply simply means to do so with purpose. So, another cool way to say it is that friends should love one another on purpose. Why? Because love erases wrongs. We all mess up sometimes. But when we choose to love others on purpose, it helps us to forgive and move on.

Find a dry erase board and marker or ask an adult if you can write on a mirror with a washable marker. Write out the words of today's verse and read it aloud. Then, erase one word and repeat the verse again, including the missing word. Continue in the same way, erasing one word at a time and repeating the verse until you can recite it from memory.

**Thank God for loving you on purpose** and for erasing all your sins or mess ups. Ask Him to help you be a good friend by loving others around you too.

Friends love  
one another.

PARENT CUE



DAY 3

### Read 1 John 4:7

How can you show your friends that you love and follow God?

The answer is simple: friends love one another. Why? Because love comes from God. In fact, God IS love. You cannot separate God from love. The biggest way you can show others that you love God is to love the people around you too!

Grab a sheet of paper and some coloring supplies. Write this week's bottom line on the page, "**Friends love one another.**" Hang this somewhere you'll see it all week.

**Look for ways to show love to your friends.**

DAY 4

### Read Romans 12:10

Circle the response that shows love in the scenarios below:

**Your friend** is sad but you don't know why.

- a. You ignore it and keep playing.
- b. You ask what's wrong and then listen when she's ready to talk.
- c. You tell your friend to stop acting so quiet and weird.

**Your friend** throws the ball and it goes down in the gutter. You say,

- a. "It's okay. It was an accident."
- b. "Way to go. Now we can't play anymore!"
- c. "I can't believe you did that!"

**Your friend** misses catching the ball and your kickball team loses at recess.

- a. You yell at your friend in front of everyone.
- b. You refuse to speak to that friend for the rest of recess.
- c. You say, "It's okay" and remind him that you missed a big shot earlier in the game.

It's easy to spot the "right" answers in these scenarios. But in real life, it can be really hard to love and honor others more than yourself. The good news is that God will help you be a good friend, the kind of friend who loves even when it's hard.

Thank God for loving you and for showing you how to love others too. Ask Him to help you honor others more than yourself this week, when it's easy and when it's hard.

# Friendship means using your words and actions to show others you care.

WEEK  
**3**  
2ND-3RD

DAY 1

## Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Grab some blocks or a few plastic cups and build the tallest tower you can. Okay, now take a guess as to how long your tower will last before someone knocks it over? An hour? Fifteen minutes? Thirty seconds? What if you were to stand next to it to protect it? Would it last longer if you were there to keep watch?

When it comes to friendships, encouragement is super important. Everyone has bad days, days when they don't feel like they can do anything right. As a friend, you have the opportunity to help someone feel better just by using words that encourage!

But encouragement isn't just about words. Sometimes, just being present, sticking with a friend and letting them know you're there can go a long way too. When someone is sad, just sitting with them, giving a high five or a smile can help too.

Take a look at your tower. Name one friend you would like to encourage this week with your words and actions so that you can build each other up. As you pray today, ask God to help you remember that friends encourage one another.

DAY 2

## Read John 15:12

Jesus asks us to love one another just as He has loved us. How did Jesus show love? He served. Remember how He washed the disciple's feet? He helped. Remember how He fed that huge crowd with one boy's lunch? He put others first. Remember how He willingly faced the cross so that we could be forgiven. He encouraged others. Remember how He said that we would face trouble but not to worry because He is in control? (John 16:33)

Jesus is the best friend ever. How could you be a friend like Jesus this week? Give some specific examples by filling in the blanks below.

I can help my friends by \_\_\_\_\_

I can put my friends first by \_\_\_\_\_

I can encourage my friends by \_\_\_\_\_

As you pray today, ask God to help you follow through and be good friend just as Jesus has been a good friend to you.

Friends encourage  
one another.

DAY 3

## Read Galatians 6:2

When you read today's verse, are you confused? When Paul wrote these words, was he talking about carrying each other's stuff? Actually, "heavy loads" mean failures, temptations, or trials. When someone messes up, or is tempted to make an unwise choice, we should step in and help. Instead of standing off the side or even criticizing, we should encourage our friends and do what we can to make things easier. A good friend is there to encourage and say, "I'm here. How can I help?"

Use the key to fill in the blanks:

\_\_\_\_\_  
3 1 18 18 24    15 14 5    1 14 15 20 8 5

\_\_\_\_\_  
18 19    8 5 1 22 24    12 15 1 4 19

\_\_\_\_\_  
9 6    24 15 21    4 15    24 15 21

\_\_\_\_\_  
23 9 12 12    6 21 12 6 9 12 12    20 8 5

\_\_\_\_\_  
12 1 23    15 6    3 8 18 9 19 20

6:2

7 1 12 1 20 9 1 14 19

### Key

1 - A	5 - E	9 - I	13 - M	17 - Q	21 - U
2 - B	6 - F	10 - J	14 - N	18 - R	22 - V
3 - C	7 - G	11 - K	15 - O	19 - S	23 - W
4 - D	8 - H	12 - L	16 - P	20 - T	24 - Y

DAY 4

## Read Romans 15:2

When was the last time someone did something that encouraged you? Maybe a friend gave you a pat on the back and said, "It's okay" when you missed the goal in your soccer game. Or your mom sent a note in your lunch saying she was praying for your big math test. Maybe your teacher put a smiley face on your paper with a note saying, "keep up the great work."

There are **LOTS** of ways we can encourage others. Today, to help you put this into practice, think about someone you know that could use some encouragement. Make a card or write a note to that friend to encourage them. Think of a fun way to deliver it to your friend this week. *NOTE: You might need to ask an adult for help with this depending on your plan.*

You don't have to stop with just one note! Pay attention to the friends around you that look like they need encouragement. Make it a habit to say something kind, write a note, or just be present to sit with a friend who is discouraged. Ask God to help you be the kind of friend that encourages others and builds them up.





**Friendship** means using your words and actions to show others you care.

WEEK  
4  
2ND-3RD

DAY 1

### Read Colossians 3:13

If you spend any amount of time around someone else, that someone else is probably going to get on your nerves. When that happens, what do you do? Do you yell right back, say something mean, or ignore him too?

Paying someone back when they bug you isn't how friendship should work. Everyone messes up sometimes, including you. That means that everyone will need to be forgiven, including you. In order to protect our friendships, sometimes we just need to "put up with one another", forgive and move on. The only way we can do that is to remember that **God loves and forgives us, always.**

Unscramble the words below and read the phrase aloud. Ask God to help you follow through and forgive others this week so you can be a good friend to others.

RDINSEF

FRGVEIO

NOE

ETRNOAH

Answer: Friends forgive one another.

DAY 2

### Read Ephesians 4:32

When was the last time a friend did something that hurt you? What happened? Have you forgiven them?

When was the last time you did something that hurt someone else? What happened? Have you asked for forgiveness?

Forgiveness is definitely a two-way street. Sometimes you need it, sometimes you need to give it. It helps to start with kindness. When someone hurts you and says, "I'm sorry," instead of holding onto your anger or looking for ways to hurt them back, **God asks us to forgive.** He loves you so much that sent His only Son Jesus so that you could be forgiven. And because He's already forgiven you, God wants you to forgive others too.

Grab the thickest rubber band you can find. If you don't have a rubber band, ask an adult to help you make a bracelet out of duct tape. Write the word "FORGIVEN" and "FORGIVE" on the bracelet in big block letters. As you wear your bracelet this week, ask God to help you forgive others just as He's forgiven you.

Friends forgive  
one another.

PARENT CUE

DAY 3

### Read Luke 17:3-4

$3 + 4 = \underline{\quad}$

$12 - 5 = \underline{\quad}$

$20 - 13 = \underline{\quad}$

Did you get the same answer for all three of the math problems above? What was that answer? Yes, seven!

Is there anything you do seven times a day? You probably don't eat seven meals a day. Or brush your teeth seven times.

Have you ever forgiven someone seven times? That seems like a lot doesn't it? But what if you reverse the idea. What if you are the one who messes up? Wouldn't you want to be forgiven seven times? Of course. And the awesome reality is, we have. When we confess—or tell God what we've done and say we're sorry—He will forgive. Instead of keeping score or holding a grudge, remember that friends forgive one another.

Write down the names of seven friends in the space below. As you pray today, call out each friend's name and ask God to help you stop keeping score and just forgive them as He has forgiven you.

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DAY 4

### Read Luke 6:31

We've been talking about friendship all month long. Friendship is using your words and actions to show you care. Grab a piece of paper. At the top of the page write "A Good Friend." Then, cover your page with words that describe a good friend. (We've already learned a few to get you started: loves, encourages, forgives)

Everyone wants to have good friends. **The secret to having good friends is to be a good friend.** And the best way to be a good friend is by applying the golden rule every day. It's found in our verse today. The golden rule says to treat others the way you want to be treated.

So, here's a little challenge. Hang your good friend sign on the bathroom mirror. Each day as you wash your hands or brush your teeth, focus on one or two of the words you've written on the page. Then ask God to help treat others the way you want to be treated and thank Him for the friends He's given you!

