

LESSON 5
“FRIENDLINESS”
(page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

1 Samuel 20 (pages 309-310)

CHARACTER WORD

Friendship - Knowing, liking, and accepting other people just the way they are.

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

With God's help, I can be a friend to others.

MEMORY LINK

John 15:13

*“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”
(KBC Study Bible, page 1172)*

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: Index cards

Option 2: Beanbags

BIBLE CONNECTION

No supplies needed

SURF TEAM TIME

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: Craft sticks, container

Option 2: Plastic cups, sponge balls

Jonathan Helps a Friend

WHAT'S THE POINT?

We define “friendliness” as knowing, liking, and accepting other people just the way they are. No one exemplifies that definition like God does. He created you and knows you like no one else. He accepts you as you are. His mercy covers your sin and His grace is sufficient for everything you need.

How does a person become a friend of God? Through Jesus Christ. In John 15:11-17, Jesus explained true love and friendship to his disciples. Jesus proved His friendship with us when he died on the cross. Today's Memory Link explains, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.” John 15:13 (page 1172). Because Jesus gave His life, you can be a friend of God.

In John 15:14 (page 1172), Jesus clearly taught that His friends obey His commands. How will you live out that friendship today? How will you reflect your friendship with God in the way you treat and interact with others? How can you honor God in your friendships?

Proverbs 17:17 says “a friend loves at all times.” That's how God loves us... at all times. Even when we least deserve that love, He freely offers it to us. Let's commit to extend that love to others in friendship.

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in surf teams; introducing today's lesson



Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the students in your surf team and to introduce today's lesson.

- *Today's character word is friendliness. What examples of friendliness can you share?*
- *Why is it important to be a friend?*
- *How can you be a friend?*



Guide students to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles, if they brought one, so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

WORSHIP TIME

Pointing students' hearts toward God



This week our character word is friendliness. We are best able to show true friendship to others when we reflect the loving character of God. Look for songs that display the character of God and Jesus.

Consider: “I am a Friend of God”, by Phillips, Craig, & Dean; “Friendship Song-Count on Me”, By Bruno Mars; “No Greater Love” (John 15:13-14), by Seeds Family Worship.

MEMORY LINK

2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students
8 Minutes – Activity to help them memorize the verse



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No supplies needed

Focus on the Bible

Ask students to hold their Bibles up if they brought one. *Our character word is friendliness. One of the qualities I look for in a friend is someone who knows God's Word.* Now have students find today's Memory Link, John 15:13 (KBC Study Bible, page 1172) in their Bible and follow along as you read it.

Focus on today's Memory Link

The words in today's Memory Link were said by Jesus the night before He died. Remember, Jesus died for our sins, so Jesus lived out this verse. His death shows us His great love. But I don't have to die to show my love for my friends. When I don't have to have my own way, when I share, when I am kind: these are all ways to lay my life down and put others first. This week let's not just be able to say this verse but find ways to show greater love to your friends. Let's say our verse together!

Option 1 - BIBLE VERSE RELAY

Index cards

Prepare: Write one word or phrase per index card. Place the stack of words about 15 feet away from the surf team.

Surf teams will line up in two rows with students standing side by side. On the start signal from the leader, two players will run down at the same time. They pick up a card, place it so they are carrying it together by touching their elbows, and race back. The first team to collect all cards and place the words of the verse in order wins.

Option 2 - LAST PERSON STANDING

One beanbag per surf team

Instruct your surf team to form a circle. Pass the beanbag around the circle as the verse is said aloud. The last person holding the beanbag is out. That person hands the beanbag quickly to a friend and the Memory Link is repeated again. Continue play until only one person remains.

John 15:13

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

(KBC Study Bible, page 1172)

Teaching Tip

Do you ever have students who just can't sit still or focus? Are they sometimes disobedient? One simple tip is to ask what behavior management cues and reminders your school uses and implement them in your club. Using what the students already know will help facilitate greater success in right behavior.

BIBLE CONNECTION



Teaching today’s character word through gospel-centered Bible story

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No supplies needed

Set the Stage

In the Old Testament we have the story of two friends. One is the King’s son, Jonathan, and the other, David, who works for the king. They were best friends. But there was a problem - King Saul had allowed his heart to turn away from God and now he wanted to kill David. Can you imagine someone wanting to kill your best friend?

Tell the Story

As David worked near Saul he noticed Saul’s attitude change toward him. David knew his life was in danger. The powerful king wanted him dead. What would he do? David decided to go to his best friend, Jonathan, for help.

Jonathan was the son of King Saul. Jonathan and David met in a field away from the king’s palace. But when David asked Jonathan why the king, his father, wanted to kill him, Jonathan didn’t believe the king wanted to kill David. But because Jonathan loved David, he agreed to find out what was really happening and help his friend. Jonathan was loyal to his friend, David.

Jonathan and David went out to a field, away from the palace. They planned for David to stay in the field until it was safe. So, the two friends came up with a secret code so that David would know if it was safe for him to return. Jonathan would come to the field and shoot arrows and have a young boy go and collect them. If Jonathan shouted to the young boy, “the arrows are on this side of you,” it would mean there was no danger and it was safe to return to the palace. But if Jonathan said, “Look, the arrows are beyond you,” that meant Saul really wanted to kill him and David would need to run for his life. Jonathan wanted to help his friend.

In just a few days there was a special feast coming and Jonathan knew that King Saul expected David to be at the feast. Sure enough, when everyone was at the feast, Saul noticed David was gone and asked where he was. Saul didn’t just ask in a nice voice. He was angry. Jonathan made an excuse for his friend’s absence, but this only made Saul more angry. Saul was so angry he told Jonathan that David must die. Now Jonathan knew the truth.

Jonathan was brave and loyal to his friend. He knew that the King could kill him for helping David, but he kept his promise to David. The next morning he took his bow and arrows and a young boy to gather the arrows and went to the field. He shot the arrows and then he shot one much farther and told the young boy, “Look, the arrow is beyond you.” Now David knew the truth. Jonathan sent the young boy back to the palace and now it was just David and Jonathan in the field.

Teaching Tip

As you prepare to teach, pray and read the Bible text first. Don’t merely read the story from these pages! Remember your job is to make God’s Word come alive for your students. Feel free to interject examples from your personal experience, but focus on God’s Word and the teaching objective.

The Bible says that as soon as the boy was gone David came and bowed down before Jonathan. He showed respect to Jonathan, the king's son. Then they said good-bye. I think they knew they would never see each other again, because the Bible said they were crying as they said good-bye. As they left, they promised each other to always remain friends.

Application

This week we will all have choices. You can choose to be angry at others, you can choose to have your own way, or you can make the friendship choice. Think about the love Jesus has shown us and act in that same loving way to others, being a friend to everyone!

Gospel Connection 

We all need friends like Jonathan and David's friendship in our lives. The good news I have for you today is that Jesus is that loyal friend for us. Our Memory Link today tells us "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friend." (John 15:13, page 1172). Jesus gave His life for our sins. That's what makes Jesus a Forever Friend. And you know that today you can choose to be Jesus' Forever Friend. First ADMIT you're a sinner and ASK Jesus to FORGIVE your sin and come into your life. Next, BELIEVE that Jesus died on the cross for your sin and then CHOOSE TO FOLLOW Jesus by turning away from your sin and choosing God's way rather than your own way.

Close in prayer thanking God for friends.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their Forever Friend to move to the designated counseling area to meet with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

Gospel Tip

Today's lesson on friendliness is a good time to focus on the term "Forever Friend" often used in KiDs Beach Club. In John 15:12-17, Jesus clearly explains to His disciples what it means to be Jesus' friend. Friendship with Jesus is only possible because of His great sacrifice for us. But Jesus isn't our "good buddy". Jesus is the Son of God seated on the throne of Heaven. We don't deserve friendship with the One who created and sustains the universe. And there's no way for us to earn that friendship. The only response to Jesus' sacrifice is worship and devotion. But God reaches down and pursues a personal relationship with us, making us His "Forever Friends". What an amazing gift!

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with students in small groups; applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



LESSON 5
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Memory Link Cards, Hang 10 page, index cards, pens, highlighters

Today's Bible Lesson

- Before you begin, ask if there are any students who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their Forever Friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.
- *What questions do you have about today's story?*
- Remind students of the friend qualities they listed during Get Connected time. Ask how they saw some of the qualities in the story.
- *What has Jesus done to be our friend?*
- *What should you do if you want Jesus as your Forever Friend?*

Use the Bible 

Give each student a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word.

Hang 10 Pages 

Give each student a Hang 10 Page. Challenge students to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage them to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week.

On Day 1 of our Hang 10 page we are reminded that Jesus showed us how much He loved us by giving His life on the cross to pay the punishment for our sin. Let's look at the tip-in pages "God Loves You and Has a Plan for Your Life" in our KBC Study Bible between pages 626-627.

Pray

Encourage students to write prayer requests on index cards. Lead them in prayer. Take the cards home and pray for these requests during the week.

Thank You, Jesus, for showing Your great friendship to us in giving Your life for us to save us from our sins. In Jesus' name, amen.

Teaching Tip

There is an old saying: they won't care how much you know, until they know how much you care. Take time each week to give each student some individual time and affirmation. Make time to pray for each one in your surf team.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word



Option 1 - STICK BY ME

Craft sticks, cup or container

Prepare: Write review questions (one each) on craft sticks and place in a cup or container.

Group students in pairs. Leader draws a stick out of container and asks the question. The first pair to stand up and answer the question correctly (speaking together) gets a point. Continue until all questions have been answered. The pair with the most points wins.

Option 2 - KNOCK IT DOWN

10 plastic cups and one sponge ball per surf team

Direct surf teams to form single file lines and guide them to build a pyramid with 10 cups several feet away from their line. Take turns asking review questions to each surf team. If the surf team answers the question correctly they get 2 chances to knock down the pyramid. Score: 1 point per cup knocked down, if all 10 are knocked down score a 2-point bonus. Continue until all questions have been answered or time runs out.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. *According to today's Memory Link, what is the greatest way to show love? (to lay down your life for a friend)*
2. *In what book of the Bible is today's Memory Link found? (John)*
3. *Name the two friends in today's lesson. (David and Jonathan)*
4. *What was the name of the king? (Saul)*
5. *What problem did the two friends have? (Saul wanted to kill David.)*
6. *Tell something Jonathan did that showed he was a friend. (Answers may vary.)*
7. *How did Saul act when David wasn't at the feast? (He became very angry.)*
8. *What did Jonathan say to let David know that it was not safe? (He said, "Look, the arrow is out beyond you.")*
9. *How can you be a true friend? (Answers may vary.)*
10. *How can a person make Jesus their Forever Friend? (Admit, Believe, Choose to Follow)*

Teaching Tip

The activities in your curriculum are suggestions. If necessary, adapt for your Beach Club and plan a different game, or replay an earlier favorite game. Consider keeping a notebook of lessons and as the year goes by, mark the activities you played and note how they went. For example, use the code 0-5: "0" meaning the game was a flop; "5" meaning a sure winner you would want to play again.



***“Greater love has
no one than this,
than to lay down
one’s life for
his friends.”***

John 15:13

KBC Study Bible, page 1172