

City SG - November 9-10, 2019

Bible Story: You've Got a Friend (David and Jonathan) • 1 Samuel 18:1-11; 19:1-7; 20:1-42

Bottom Line: Honor others by putting them first.

Memory Verse: *Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.* Romans 12:10 (NIV)

1. Ice-Breaker

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Greet each child by name, and welcome them to group.
- Assign each child a task from the list below.
- He will describe step by step how to complete that task.
- When the child is finished with his explanation, ask the kids who were listening to name the very first step.
- Tasks:
 - Making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich
 - Tying your shoes
 - Brushing your teeth
 - Putting together a puzzle
 - Walking your dog
 - Writing your name
 - Washing the dishes
 - Setting the table
 - Folding a clean shirt
 - Making your bed

2. First in Friendship

What You Need: Paper strips (1 per child), pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a paper strip and a pen.
- Ask the kids to write down one characteristic of a good friend. Examples: kind, loyal, trustworthy, good listener, etc.
- Kids can set the strips on the floor in the center of your small group area.
- Ask: What is the MOST important quality to find in a friend?
- Kids will likely debate about what quality is most important.
- Let the kids take turns moving one paper strip to the top at a time until they have the statements in order of importance.
- Discuss the top three characteristics of a good friend based on their top three choices.

What You Say:

"This is a GREAT list of ways to be a good friend. We could all be a good friend to others by *(list some of the characteristics you see on the floor)*."

3. Shooting Arrows

What You Need: Straws (1 per child), Q-tips (5 per group, per service), White Floor Tape

What You Do:

- Invite kids to find a partner.
- Give each child a straw and each pair one Q-tip.
- Use the floor tape to mark a starting line and a finish line at least 15 feet apart.
- Pairs will go one at a time in this game.
- Ask one of the review questions below and allow anyone to answer it. Once answered, the first pair will play.
- One kid will stand at the starting line with the other partner about two feet in front of her.
- The partner at the starting line will place the Q-tip in her straw and blow through the straw, shooting the Q-tip over her partner's head toward the finish line.
- Then partners will switch roles. The first shooter will stand where the Q-tip landed. Her partner will pick up the Q-tip, place it in her own straw, and shoot it over her partner's head.
- Play continues back and forth between partners until their Q-tip passes the finish line.
- If a player blows through the straw and Q-tip goes out of bounds (sideways and/or not in the direction of the finish line), he must pick it up and try again.
- Play continues with the next review question and the next pair of players until everyone has had a chance to "shoot" their Q-tip.
- Make sure to collect the supplies after the activity is finished to remove any temptation to continue "playing" during the rest of Groups time.

Review Questions:

1. In today's Bible story, who is the King? (*Saul*)
2. Who had God chosen to be the next king after Saul? (*David*)
3. Who was Saul's son? (*Jonathan*)
4. Who was Jonathan's best friend? (*David*)
5. Was Jonathan jealous of David? (*No*)
6. Why did Jonathan not feel jealous toward David? (*Because they were best friends and he put David first*)
7. What did Jonathan give David to show him that he was his best friend? (*He gave him his robe, his sword, his belt and his bow and arrows.*)
8. What did Saul throw at David in a fit of jealousy and rage? (*His spear*)
9. Why do you think Saul tried to kill David? (*He was jealous of all the attention David was getting; he wanted everyone to honor him as the king*)
10. What was the plan David came up with? What did he ask Jonathan to do? (*David would hide during the feast. When King Saul asked where David was, Jonathan would say he was visiting family. If Saul became angry, Jonathan would know that David wasn't safe there.*)
11. Jonathan promised to help David with this plan. What did Jonathan ask of David? (*Jonathan made David promise to always be kind to him and his family*)
12. What happened at the feast when Jonathan explained why David wasn't there? (*Saul was so angry that he threw his spear at his own son!*)
13. After Jonathan shot the arrows telling David that it wasn't safe, what happened? (*David and Jonathan hugged and cried because they knew David couldn't stay there. David would have to leave and go into hiding. Jonathan chose to put his friend first by helping him escape.*)

What You Say:

“That was a SUPER fun game! But man, this is a crazy story. You would think that Jonathan would be jealous of David like his father was. After all, as the king’s son, you would assume that Jonathan would become the next king. But what did Jonathan do instead? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, he chose to honor his friend by putting him first. Why do you think Jonathan did this? Talk about a good friend! Jonathan put David first and tried to protect him, even when it put his own life in danger. Jonathan understood how to **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first.**”

“Honor for us won’t be quite so crazy. We won’t have to dodge spears or shoot arrows into a field as a warning signal. But we will have to put our own wants and needs aside in order to think of others first.”

[Make It Personal] (Tell your few about a time when a friend chose to put you first. Maybe they did something kind for you and it was very inconvenient for them or it cost them something. How did it make you feel?)

4. Memory Verse Line Up

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Look up and review Romans 12:10 as a group.
- Repeat the verse aloud several times together until the kids can say it easily.
- Line up the kids, one in front of the other.
- Play a relay game with the words of the verse.
- The first kid in line will say the first word of the verse (“Love”) and then run to the back of the line as the second kid in line says the next word (“one”) and so on.
- Kids will continue to say a word of the verse and run to the back of the line until (as a group) they’ve recited the entire verse and the reference.
- Play again, but start from the BACK of the line.
- Kids will say one word of the verse and run to the front of the line, and so on until they’ve recited the entire verse.

What You Say:

“Whew, that was fun! Great job, everybody. I love this verse because it reminds us first to love each other deeply. Is it possible to really love someone when you always put yourself first? Would you feel loved by your friend if they always put themselves first? No way! So this week, let’s remember to honor others more than ourselves. Let’s choose to **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first.**”

5. Others First

What You Need: “Others First” Scenario Page (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a variation of “Mother, May I?”
- Lead kids to line up shoulder to shoulder at one end of your environment.
- Call a child’s name and read one of the scenarios from “Others First” (Activity Page), or call out a scenario that’s relevant to your group.

NOTE: First graders may be able to “fill in the blank” and come up with a way that the child in the scenario could put others first. Kindergarteners may need to choose from the suggested options.

- Guide the child who answers the question to choose another child to move forward.
- As in the game “Mother, May I?” give the kid who gets chosen a specific number and type of steps to move forward.

What You Say:

“You all chose some great ways to put others first! What’s one way that YOU can put others first this week? (Allow time for a couple responses.) **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids a way you’ll put others first this week, too.)** So, remember: **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first.** When you do, you’ll be treating others like they matter to God, and that’s a great thing!”

6. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to pray silently that God would help them to **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first** this week.

What You Say:

“Let’s pray. God, thanks for loving us and for giving us friends. Help us to put others first this week so that we can honor them. We want to be the kind of friends that are loyal and kind and trustworthy. But we know that it starts with putting others first. We need your help to do that, God. Thanks for loving us and for putting us first by sending Jesus. We love You, and it’s in His name we pray, amen.”

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!