

City SG—July 17th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Have a Little Faith in Me (David and Jonathan) • *1 Samuel 18-20; 2 Samuel 9 (2 Samuel 4:4)*

Today's Bottom Line: Be faithful so others can count on you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6 (NIRV)

1. Imitate Jesus

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Look up and read Philippians 1:6 aloud to the kids.
- Help the group recite the verse a few times together.
- Remind kids that the Bible is full of promises from God.
- Read Philippians 1:6 again.
- Ask, "What promise about God was Paul sharing when he wrote this in his letter?"
- As needed, help the kids put into words the truth that God is doing good work in everyone and promises to complete it.
- Tell the kids that you will make eye contact with someone around the circle and recite a phrase from the verse.
- When you look at a kid, direct them to echo back the phrase and not blink until you look at someone else.
- Each time you start the verse over, change your facial expression (fish face, squinty eyes, wide eyes).
- Instruct the kids to imitate your expression without blinking.

What You Say:

"In this game, you had to imitate me. One way to learn to be a great friend is to imitate Jesus and also find friends who do the same. The good news is that Paul, the author of this verse, was telling us that when you and your friends put your faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit is already working in all of you to help you be good, loyal, and faithful friends to each other. God promises help to complete the good work in us. I think that good friends can inspire each other to be the faithful friends God wants us to be. Good friends are hard to find, and that's why I want you to **[Bottom Line] be faithful so others can count on you.**"

2. Bottle Spin

What You Need: Bottle (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Instruct the kids to think of one word that makes them a good friend to others such as:
 - nice
 - happy
 - fun
 - adventurous
 - loyal
 - faithful
- Place the bottle on its side on the floor or use a spinner from a game.
- Share a word that makes you a good friend then spin the spinner or water bottle.
- When the bottle stops and the mouth is pointing to a kid, instruct that kid to share what makes them a good friend.

- When they are finished sharing, direct the kid to rotate the bottle to determine who has the next turn.

What You Say:

“Good friends have amazing positive qualities, don’t they? They make us happy and help us when we feel sad or lonely. God wants us to be a good friend!”

3. Bible Story Review

What You Need: “Pass the Water Questions” Page, Foam Dice (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to stand in a circle.
- Give one of the kids a Foam Dice.
- Instruct the group to roll the dice one at a time in a circle, as quickly as possible, until someone rolls a 6 or a 1.
- Any kid who rolls a 6 or a 1 ask them a story review question.

What You Say:

“In our story today, Jonathan could have chosen to be enemies with David. After all, Jonathan’s father was King Saul, so Jonathan ‘should’ have been the next king. But instead, he chose to protect his friend from his father who was trying to kill David. How did Jonathan show David that he could count on him? *(Invite responses.)*

“Just like Jonathan was faithful to David, God wants you to **[Bottom Line] be faithful so others can count on you**, too. What are some things your friends can count on you for? *(Invite responses.)*

“In the end, the two friends had to leave each other to keep David safe. Just like passing the cup of water wasn’t easy, being a good faithful friend is not always easy and might require you to make some hard sacrifices. The good news is that when you put your faith in Jesus, God’s Spirit can help you be a loyal and faithful friend to others.”

[Make It Personal] (Tell about a time a friend asked you to do something for them that cost you something. Maybe you had to sacrifice your time and rearrange your schedule to help them or give up something you really wanted to do because your friend needed you to take them somewhere. How did it feel to be counted on? Was sacrificing your time and energy worth it?)

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to stand in a circle.
- Ask each kid to share one characteristic a faithful friend might possess.
- Invite the kids to silently reflect on one characteristic they’d like to develop so they can be counted on.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You so much for the friend we have in Jesus and the role model He is for us! Please help us be godly friends and also find friends who trust You. Help us support each other so we can grow to love You more each day. We need Your help to develop the characteristic of *(pause and ask kids to silently insert the trait they feel they need to develop)*, so we can be the kind of friend others can count on. Help us remember as we walk through our days that it is important to be a friend and have friends who can be counted on! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”