

## Friends and Neighbors

God proposes that we give love to our neighbors and thus give them something more valuable than friendship. By giving God's grace, we can show them the love of our Savior. We can tell them about their true friend.

based on 1 Samuel 18, focusing on the friendship between David and Jonathan.

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Theme: Godly Friendships

**Bible Passage:** 1 Samuel 18:1-4

**Key Verse:** Proverbs 17:17 - "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

**Big Idea:** God wants us to be loving, loyal, and supportive friends like Jonathan and David.

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Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will:

1. Learn about the deep friendship between David and Jonathan.
  2. Understand the qualities of a godly friend.
  3. Be encouraged to show kindness and loyalty in their friendships.
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Lesson Outline

1. Welcome & Opening (10 minutes)

- **Greeting:** Welcome each child and ask about their week.
  - **Prayer:** Open with a prayer thanking God for the gift of friends.
  - **Icebreaker:** Ask, "What do you like most about your best friend?"
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2. Bible Have students write CD1 90 by all scripture references so they can cross reference with their notebook.

- **Background:** Explain that Jonathan was King Saul's son and David was a shepherd who became a great warrior. Despite their differences, they became best friends.
  - **Read or Retell the Story (1 Samuel 18:1-4):**
    - Highlight how Jonathan loved David and gave him gifts like his robe, sword, and belt as a sign of their friendship and loyalty.
    - Emphasize Jonathan's selflessness and how he supported David even when it was difficult.
  - **Discussion Questions:**
    - What made Jonathan and David good friends?
    - Why did Jonathan give David his robe and weapons?
    - How can we be good friends like Jonathan?
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3. Activities (20 minutes)

**Option 1: Friendship Bracelets**

- **Materials:** String, beads, scissors.
- **Activity:** Let children make bracelets to give to a friend. Remind them of Jonathan's gift to David and how friends show love through kind actions.

**Option 2: Friendship Role Play**

- Create scenarios for the children to act out, like helping a friend who is sad or sharing toys. Discuss how these actions show love and loyalty.

### **Option 3: “Friendship Shield” Craft**

- **Materials:** Paper, markers, and decorations.
  - **Activity:** Have children draw a shield and write qualities of a good friend (kind, loyal, forgiving) on it.
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#### **4. Life Application (10 minutes)**

- **Discussion:**
    - What do you look for in a friend?
    - How can we show God’s love to our friends?
  - **Memory Verse Activity:** Practice Proverbs 17:17 by saying it with actions or as a chant.
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#### **5. Closing (5 minutes)**

- **Review:** Recap the story and main points about friendship.
- **Prayer:** Thank God for good friends and ask for help to be a godly friend.

**Take-Home Sheet:** Include a summary of the story, the memory verse, and a coloring page of David and Jonathan. Choosing my friends  
David and Jonathan

<http://www.shykids.com/shykidsfriends.htm>

<http://www.pluggedinonline.com/movies/movies/a0000508.cfm>

[http://www.positivediscipline.com/articles/Choosing\\_friends.html](http://www.positivediscipline.com/articles/Choosing_friends.html)

[http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue11\\_12/boyd/](http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue11_12/boyd/)

<http://www.search-institute.org/archives/udtf.htm>

<http://ezinearticles.com/?The-Importance-of-Friendship&id=13997>

ChatGPT said:

Here are some **principles of friendship for pre-teens**, tailored to their developmental stage—where they are beginning to form deeper bonds, seek belonging, and explore empathy and trust:

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### **1. Be Kind and Respectful**

- Use kind words.
- Listen when your friend is talking.

- Treat them the way you want to be treated.

💬 *"A friend loves at all times." — Proverbs 17:17*

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## 2. Be Trustworthy

- Keep secrets (unless someone is in danger).
- Be honest, even when it's hard.
- Don't gossip.

💡 *Friendship grows with trust!*

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## 3. Include Others


- Invite friends to play or hang out.
- Be on the lookout for someone who might be feeling left out.

💬 *"Encourage one another and build each other up." — 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

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## 4. Forgive and Say Sorry

- Everyone makes mistakes. Be quick to forgive.
- If you mess up, apologize and mean it.

 *Friendship takes work—but it's worth it!*

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## 5. Be a Good Communicator

- Talk things out calmly if there's a disagreement.
- Ask questions and really listen to the answers.
- Don't assume—check in with your friend.

💡 *"Let your words be full of grace." — Colossians 4:6*

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## 💪 6. Stand Up for What's Right

- Be a loyal friend, even when others aren't.
  - Stand up for your friend if someone's being mean.
  - Don't go along with things that feel wrong just to "fit in."
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## 🕊️ 7. Accept Differences

- Friends don't have to be exactly like you!
- Respect different opinions, interests, and backgrounds.

💬 *"Love your neighbor as yourself." — Mark 12:31*