

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 1 • Unit 10 • Week 2

FRIENDSHIP

OBJECTIVE:

To teach the characteristics of true friendship—including loyalty, brotherly love, concern, and self-sacrifice—through the story of David and Jonathan.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Supplies: Nerf ball, tennis ball or other soft ball

Do: Ask one child to come forward and stand about six feet away from you.

Say: I'm going to toss you a soft ball. I would like you to catch it and hold on to it.

Do: Throw the ball. After he or she is holding it, stand and wait for about a minute.

Say: It's not too much fun if we both don't get to toss and catch the ball, is it?

Do: Throw the ball back and forth a few times.

Say: That's sort of the way that friendship works. Both people must do certain things for them to be true friends.

BIBLE LESSON:

Do: Read about the friendship of David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7 and 20:1-42 from a child-friendly translation.

Say: David and Jonathan were very close friends. Jonathan helped save David's life even though it caused King Saul, Jonathan's father, to be very angry with Jonathan. Jonathan knew David had not done anything wrong. He wanted to help David.

Ask: Did Jonathan show loyalty to David? How?

How did Jonathan show brotherly love toward David?

Was Jonathan concerned about David?

What sacrifices did Jonathan make to help David?

Say: A good friend is someone who helps others, even when it hurts. Jonathan was the closest friend David ever had. It seems that one of the main reasons that David liked Jonathan so much was that he knew he could depend on Jonathan, even in the hard times. David could turn to his good friend, Jonathan. Jonathan helped David, even when it could have gotten him in deep trouble.

Ask: What kind of friend are you? Do you help out your friends only when it's convenient and easy for you? Or do you stick by your friends, even if it hurts?

Do: Depending on the responses given, it might be necessary to discuss that you should never help a friend do wrong.

Say: We should all show the characteristics of true friendship. That includes loyalty, brotherly love, concern and self-sacrifice.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Supplies: 8 by 11 inch white paper or construction paper
Pencils
Crayons

Do: Pass out paper, pencils and crayons. Have each child make a greeting card to give to a good friend. Show the children how to fold their paper in half and then in half again. Ask them to draw and color a picture of themselves with their friend on the outside of the card. On the inside of the card, have the children print "Thanks for being my friend!" Then decorate it.

Music:

Sing the fourth verse of "Thank You, Lord," p. 20 of the United Church of God hymnal.

Thank you, Lord, for our brethren, loving truth and your Word;
Thank you for the fellowship, and the Shepherd's voice we've heard.
Let your mind be within us, a servant's heart instill;
Make us one with You and each other, your purpose to fulfill.

MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times...."

Do: Sit in a circle. The teacher should say the verse three times. Point to a child to say the first word. Go around the circle with each child adding the next word to the verse. Do this several times with a different child beginning the verse until all the class can say the entire verse.

family activity

THE POINT

We learned about the characteristics of true friendship—including loyalty, brotherly love, concern and self-sacrifice—through the story of David and Jonathan.

ASK ME...

- In what ways was Jonathan a true friend to David?
- Who was angry with Jonathan for sticking up for David?
- Did Jonathan “lay down his life” for David?
- Was Jonathan’s life in danger for helping David?
- What are some of the ways you can be a true friend?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Proverbs 18:24 states, “A man who has friends must himself be friendly. But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Discuss with your child what it means to be friendly. Be sure to talk about what true friendship is like.

Share a story with your child about you and one of your friends when you were your child’s age.

Let your child invite a friend over for the afternoon. Help your child plan out fun things to do ahead of time.

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week’s memory verse on the back. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson’s memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

—————cut along dotted line—————

(Teacher’s note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)