



Helping Kids Build Friendships God's Way

When Friends Shape Who We Become

Lesson Aim

Children will learn that true friendship means loyalty, love, and encouragement, following the example of David and Jonathan.

Scripture Focus

- “Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as his own soul.” (1 Samuel 18:3, *ESV*)
- “A friend loves at all times.” (Proverbs 17:17, *ESV*)

Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: “Who is your best friend? What makes them a good friend?”

Teach

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell the story of David and Jonathan's Friendship ((1 Samuel 18:1–4; 19:1–7; 20:13–17, 41–42).

David became a hero after defeating the giant Goliath. Everyone cheered for him, but King Saul grew jealous of David's bravery and success. Saul wanted all the attention for himself, and his jealousy soon turned into anger.

Jonathan, Saul's son, saw something different in David. He admired David's courage and faith in God and knew David's heart was good. The two became best friends and made a covenant—a promise before God—to always care for each other and stay loyal, no matter what. Jonathan even gave David his royal robe, his sword, and his bow to show his respect and love for his friend.

As Saul's anger grew, he tried to hurt David. Jonathan faced a hard choice: obey his father, the king, or protect his friend. He chose what was right in God's eyes and warned



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David of the danger. The friends came up with a secret plan—a special signal with arrows—to let David know when it was time to run for safety.

When it was time to say goodbye, the two friends hugged and cried. They reminded each other of their promise, saying, *“The Lord will be between you and me, and between your children and my children forever.”* Even though they had to live far apart, their friendship stayed strong because it was built on love, faith, and trust in God.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. How did Jonathan show he cared about David?
2. Why is their friendship a good example for us today?

- **Explain:**

- Jonathan cared more about being a good friend than about becoming king.
- Jonathan showed that real friends put others first, just as Jesus teaches us to love one another.

Model

- **Teacher shares:** a personal story of a time when you were encouraged or helped by a friend or when you chose to stand by someone even when it was hard.
- **Student activity:** Invite kids to role-play short scenes or draw sketches showing friendship in action, like cheering for a friend, helping someone who feels left out, or forgiving after a fight. After each short scene or drawing, pause to ask, “How did that show love or loyalty?” Encourage students to share what it feels like to be that kind of friend and how they can show the same care in their own lives.

Pray

- “Lord, thank You for good friends. Help us to be kind, loyal, and loving like Jonathan. Teach us to care for others the way Jesus cares for us. Amen.”

Craft/Activity

- **Friendship Bracelets:** Use two colors of yarn or beads to stand for loyalty and love. Kids can wear one and give one to a friend.

Key Takeaway

- Real friends love like Jesus.