



Helping Kids Build Friendships God's Way

When Friends Shape Who We Become

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Retell the story of David and Jonathan's friendship.
2. Describe what makes a true friend loyal and encouraging.
3. Practice one way to be a faithful friend this week.

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*)

Lesson Flow (25 min)

1. Connect (3 min)

- **Opening Thought:** Ask: "What is something a good friend has done for you?"
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes student attentiveness and willingness to share.

2. Teach (7 min)

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

After David defeated the giant Goliath, he became a hero in Israel. The people sang songs about him, and everyone admired his courage. But King Saul began to feel jealous because he wanted all the praise for himself.

Saul's son Jonathan didn't feel jealous—he saw David's bravery and faith in God and wanted to be his friend. Jonathan and David became very close and made a covenant—a promise to always care for each other and stay loyal no matter what. To show his love and respect, Jonathan gave David his royal robe, sword, and bow. That was a big deal, because Jonathan was the king's son—it showed that he valued friendship more than power or position.



School Lesson Plan | Friendship

But King Saul's jealousy grew stronger, and soon he tried to hurt David. Jonathan had to make a hard choice: follow his father's wishes or protect his friend. Jonathan chose to do what was right in God's eyes. He warned David about his father's anger and helped him find a safe place to hide.

Before David left, the two friends met one last time. They cried, hugged, and promised to stay friends forever. Jonathan said, *"The Lord will be between you and me, and between your children and my children forever."*

Their friendship shows what real love and loyalty look like. True friends care for each other, stand up for one another, and remind each other to trust God—no matter what happens.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jonathan stay loyal to David even when it was hard?
2. How do you know David and Jonathan truly cared about each other?

- **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.

- **Assessment:** Teacher checks comprehension through student answers.

3. Model (7 min)

- **Teacher shares:** a personal story of a time when a friend stood by you or encouraged you when you needed it.
- **Student activity:** Invite students to act out or draw friendship scenes like helping someone pick up dropped books, sitting with someone who's alone, or cheering for a friend's success.
- **Assessment:** Teacher notes student participation and ability to apply the lesson.

4. Pray (2-3 min)

- "God, thank you for showing us what it means to be a loyal and loving friend. Amen"
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes participation and reverence during prayer.

5. Closing/Reflection (5 min)

- **Key Takeaway:** Real friends love like Jesus.
- **Student Reflection:** Ask: "What is one way you can be a friend like Jonathan this week?"
- **Teacher closes:** Restate takeaway, reread Proverbs 17:17.
- **Assessment:** Teacher listens for student reflections and understanding.

Optional Extension

Independent Practice: Write or draw one way you can be a good friend this week.