

Family Worship—“Am I A Good Friend?”

Music

If your family enjoys singing, fire up a laptop, tablet, or smart phone! The following songs are some that we sing at FBCH and can be found (with words) on YouTube.

- What A Beautiful Name It Is... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QIAH3L4>
- Good, Good Father... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m5ZWchiZo>
- Holy Spirit... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zARVp3420I>
- Families with children may consider playing a VBS song or two

Introduction (Optional)

In the books and movies, *The Lord of the Rings*, Frodo Baggins is charged with the responsibility of destroying the last remaining ring sought by the evil king in order to conquer Middle-earth. Although this is his task to complete, Frodo is not alone in his journey. A courageous and committed friend, Sam, is by his side through each challenge. At the end of the series, Frodo says, “I am glad you are here with me. Here at the end of all things, Sam.”

A friend is defined as “one attached to another by affection or esteem.”¹ This is someone with whom you have experienced victories, disappointments, boredom, and adventure. Someone that you enjoy spending time with and that shares similar interests with you. A friend is different than an acquaintance, who is described as “a person who one knows but who is not a particularly close friend.”² These are the people that you work with or go to school with. You may enjoy talking to them but don’t really spend much time with them.

Ask: Who are your friends?

Five Finger Friendship Challenge: Have each person trace their hand on a piece of paper. On each finger of your drawing write a way you can be a good friend. For example: be kind, show gratitude, give a gift, do a chore for them, share, etc.

In 1 Samuel 18, we are introduced to a very extraordinary friendship. Jonathan was the son of King Saul and would have been crowned king himself after his father died. David was selected by God to be the next king and had been anointed with oil by the prophet Samuel. This unlikely duo became very close friends that cared deeply for one another. In fact, when King Saul had become angry and jealous of David, it was Jonathan who stood up to his father, protected David, and warned him of his father’s plans to hurt David.

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7, 20:1-42

Discussion

- Being a good friend...

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/friend>

² <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/acquaintance>

- I. Requires self-sacrifice
 - Jonathan's friendship with David was at the cost of his own career
 - Friendship is not about what they can do for you
- II. Requires loyalty
 - Jonathan openly defended and protected David from his father
- III. Requires commitment
 - David and Jonathan took steps to keep their families from being rivals

Ask: How do you treat your friends? Do you encourage them with words? Are you kind to them even if they do something that upsets you?

What can you do this week to be better friends with the people that live around you?

(Parents, help your child think through an task to complete).

A wise man once said, "To have friends, you have to be a friend."

Families With Teenagers

Use the passages to help your teen understand that our friends influence us. In the same way, we influence our friends. Engage your teen in discussion about their friends and how they see these two ideas in their friendships. (Hint: parents, consider allowing teens to use generic terms rather than a friend's name...especially if it isn't the most positive friendship on the planet.)

Families With Children

Use the passages to help your child understand that our friends are a gift from God. We must be kind to them, pray for them, defend them, and seek ways to care for them.

Prayer

Dear God, I pray for my friend _____. Thank you for giving me a good friend. Please help me be a good friend. In Jesus' name, amen.

**For older children, teenagers, or adults encourage each to pray on their own using their own language. It's important for each person to learn to verbalize their faith.*

Want further study on this topic?

Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity.*

Mark 2:1-12 *is the story of four men lowering their paralytic friend through the roof of a house to be healed.*

Proverbs 18:24 *A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

Proverbs 13:20 *He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harms.*

John 15:13 *Greater Love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

Proverbs 27:17 *As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*

Proverbs 22:24-25 *Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work; if one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!