



Date: _____
Series: Teen Heroes of the Bible
Fall Year 2, Lesson 19

John—Friend to the End

Take Home Point: *Jesus is your friend. Love him to the end. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John's friendship with Jesus. John 1:35-39; 13:21-25; 19:26-27; 1 John 4:10-11; Revelation 2:10b

Key Verse: John 15:13, "...The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends."

We will help kids know:

- Highlights of John the Apostle's life, especially his close friendship with Jesus.
- God showed his love for us as friends when he gave his Son Jesus.
- We can have a close friendship with Jesus as we trust and follow him.
- They can plan now to be a faithful friend of Jesus even to the end of their life.
- When we have a friendship with Jesus, we will one day see him face to face.




We will help kids feel:

- Loved by God.
- Inspired to be faithful to the very end.

We will help kids do:

- Identify friendship traits, write them on paper, crumple them, and shoot baskets with them.
- Discuss how John's friendship with Jesus can be like our friendship with Jesus.
- Make an origami paper fold to use as an exploration and growth tool for our friendships with Jesus.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Students will think of words that describe different friendship qualities and choose one of the words to describe their friendship with Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2" x 2" paper squares • pens • origami fold sample from small group application
Large Group 	4 7	Overview Audience Participation Drama – Teen Idol: “John—Friend to the End” Host Raz Mattaz invites John the Apostle to the stage to answer questions about his friendship with Jesus. If he answers the question correctly, he gets to take a Friendship Free Throw. If John makes the basket, the whole audience receives a candy prize.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • penny candy – enough for whole group & six rounds • costume for John – easy to put on • script for the volunteer who plays John (<i>p. 13</i>) • crown basket made from poster board or large version of the origami fold • six paper squares, each having a phrase printed on it: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting acquainted. 2. Hanging out. 3. Feeling close. 4. Helping in time of need. 5. Loving others. 6. Spending great time together.
Small Group Application 	4	Students will discuss ways to be a friend and explore how friendship traits relate to both their kid friendships and friendship with Jesus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copies of square project (<i>p. 14</i>) for origami paper fold activity

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

Supplies: 2" x 2" paper squares, pens or pencils, pre-made origami paper fold sample

Think of one of your closest friends. Why do you like this person?

Discuss.

What are things about this person that you admire? Discuss.

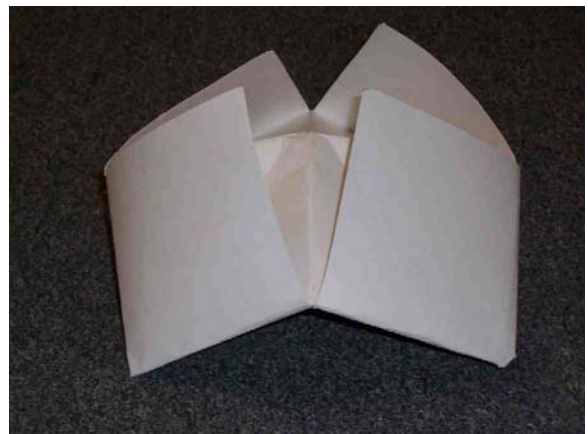
What are things that you like to do with this friend? Discuss.

Give each student three paper squares and ask them to write a word or two on each that describes a friend. Have kids take turns explaining why they chose these descriptive words for their friend. Then say:

Choose one of your squares of paper that also describes your friendship with Jesus. Share that with your group. Place this word down in front of you and be ready to tell why it describes your friendship with Jesus. But maybe none of your words seem to fit how you would describe your friendship with Jesus. That's okay. Choose a word to describe what you would *like* your friendship with Jesus to be.

Place the origami fold in the middle of the group, upside down, so that it's shaped like a crown but will work as a basket for shooting free throws. As students share each answer let them shoot a paper wad made from one of the paper squares that describes friendship.

Jesus wants to be a close friend to each and every one of us. Today we will imagine what it would have been like to be a friend of Jesus when he was here on earth. As a matter of fact, one of the great teens, or young men in the Bible, was a great friend with Jesus. His name was John. But as young people ourselves, we can be great friends with him, also. We will learn: **Jesus is your friend, love him to the end.*



Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Audience Participation Drama – Teen Idol: John—Friend to the End. Host Raz Mattaz invites John the Apostle to the stage to answer questions about his friendship with Jesus. If he answers the question correctly, he gets to take a Friendship Free Throw. If John makes the basket, the whole audience receives a candy prize.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Present these recall questions in a rapid-fire delivery format to leave plenty of time for the application segment.

In the large group presentation, there were six ways John developed his friendship with Jesus, what were some of those ways? (1. Get acquainted, 2. Hang out, 3. Feel close, 4. Help in time of need, 5. Love each other, and 6. Be faithful.)

With what title was John first introduced to Jesus? (John 1:35. John the Baptist introduced Jesus as the Lamb of God.)

When the disciples were disturbed about Jesus' announcement that one of the disciples would betray him, how did John position himself to ask Jesus more? (John 13: 25. John leaned in closely to Jesus.)

When Jesus was on the cross, how did he demonstrate that John was such a good, trusted friend? (John 19:26-27. Jesus entrusted John with the care of his mother.)

What did John say was the greatest way a friend could show his love? Hint: Jesus shows us this kind of love. (John 15:13 "...The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.")

What reward will we receive if we are faithful to Jesus until death? (Revelation 2:10. The crown of life.)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What do you think was one of Jesus and John's favorite things to do together?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies: paper squares from Warm-Up, origami paper fold pattern per student (Appendix B) and markers or pens.

Students will create an origami paper fold to demonstrate ways they can have a friendship with Jesus.

Pass out the pre-marked origami paper fold pattern. One sheet is given to each student.

Today we are going to make a paper fold, but before we do, I want you to look at the four corners marked with these phrases:

- *Talking to Jesus*
- *Jesus talking to me*
- *Doing stuff with Jesus*
- *Talking about Jesus*

We're going to personalize our craft by adding to each phrase. For each one, think of an example from your life that describes how you might do each item. For example, in the corner box that says "Talking to Jesus," you might write, "Praying while I'm walking to school." Think about other ways or times you talk to God and maybe include one of those as your response.

Next, look at the category "Jesus Talking to Me." What would an example of that look like? (*Reading the Bible, worship, listening to teaching, music lyrics, etc.*) Write your favorite on the paper.

The next category, "Doing Stuff with Jesus," is an important part of friendship. What would be an example of that? (*Serving others in Jesus' name, remembering Jesus is with you wherever you go, staying connected with friends at church, etc.*)

Finally, look at the category, "Talking About Jesus." What would be an example of someone you've talked to about him? Also think about different ways to talk about him and spread his message of love and salvation. Write down how you have talked about Jesus to others.

After kids have filled in each corner, fold the origami paper craft into a 3-D game. Once the paper has been folded, students can practice using their fingers to make it work.

Next have students find a partner. Tell them that they will share their answers and discuss what John said in the Bible about each of the categories. To do this, have them discuss the categories produced by the game when they enter their:

1. Name (By spelling it with one action per letter.)
2. Age (By counting the years.)
3. Grade (Count the years.)
4. How old they think they'll be when they get to be in heaven with Jesus.
(Count the years.)

For example, if they open the fold facing them from round one and it reads, "Doing stuff with Jesus," the student shares his/her answer and the partner looks up the Bible reference to see what John said about this category.

After the game, continue with:

Just like John who got to know Jesus and develop a close friendship with him, Jesus wants us to also be a best friend. Jesus wants to look at us and say, "This is my beloved disciple."

When you take the origami paper fold home, keep it somewhere that you can easily find when you're feeling either really good or very bad about a friend. Think of a word you like about your friend and count out the letters in the word with your fold to see where you land. If you come up with, "talking to Jesus," and "Jesus talking to me," it might be a good suggestion that you spend some time in prayer about your friend.

Jesus loves us so much that he gave his life for us. Today's key verse from John 15:13 says, "...The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends." Jesus wanted to prove that he is our best friend.

Today we learned that **Jesus is your friend, love him to the end.*

Closing Prayer:

Invite each child to pray and thank God for his/her friends. After all have prayed, invite the kids to think of their friendship with Jesus. Let them pray to have a closer friendship with Jesus by talking to him more, listening to him more, doing stuff with him and talking to others about him.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Teen Idol: John—Friend to the End Audience Participation Drama

Props and Supplies:

- penny candy – enough for whole group X 6 rounds
- costume for John – easy to put on
- script for the volunteer who plays John
- crown basket made from poster board or large version of origami fold
- six paper squares, each having a phrase printed on it:
 1. Getting acquainted.
 2. Hanging out.
 3. Feeling close.
 4. Helping in time of need.
 5. Loving others.
 6. Spending great time together.
- applause sign and a volunteer to hold it up when appropriate

Host Introduction – Raz Mattaz:

Welcome, ladies and gentlemen! I am your host, Raz. That's Raz Mattaz!

Applause.

Today on our show, we have a Teen Idol contestant who is straight from the New Testament. Yes, folks, right here in our audience we have the disciple Jesus loved. Let's give a warm welcome to the apostle John!

Applause. Invite a volunteer to play John and come to the front. Quickly dress him in costume.

Now, John, it certainly is a pleasure to have you with us today. I was looking over my notes and you certainly have a fascinating life! You are probably one of the youngest of Jesus' twelve chosen disciples. Who knows, you might have even been a teenager. But anyway, you're on Teen Idol now and the particular event you will perform will be Friendship Free Throws.

Show a super-sized origami paper fold that is modeled after the small group application sample-sized fold, and turn it upside down.

Now, what I have here is a crown... sort of, anyway.

Can you see the shape of a crown here? Yes.

Now John, you were known as the beloved disciple of Jesus, the one who was especially loved by him. We have six friendship balls for you to aim and shoot into this basket. If you get any of these into the basket, we will pass out a piece of candy to everyone here. So, concentrate hard and try to make each shot count.

Raz Mattaz will have six squares tucked into his Bible. Each has a phrase on it that will be used as a visual to help describe the teaching points.

1. *Getting acquainted.*
2. *Hanging out.*
3. *Feeling close.*
4. *Helping in time of need.*
5. *Loving others.*
6. *Spending great time together.*

The presenter will wad up each paper into a friendship free throw ball that will be handed to the volunteer character of John and thrown into the crown basket following the discussion of each teaching point.

So you don't run out of candy, place the basket far enough away so that shots are not easily made. The presenter may want to pull out masking tape and mark the free-throw line. If John misses his first five shots, then the last time, give him a sure shot by moving the basket closer.

Teaching Point 1: Friendships begin by getting acquainted.

Raz Mattaz:

Here is a piece of paper marking my Bible that reads, "Getting Acquainted." I'm going to wad this up and give it to you as a friendship free throw if you can just answer a question.

In the book of John, the gospel that you wrote, you describe when you first met Jesus.

John 1:35,

"The next day John was standing with two of his disciples. John saw Jesus walk by. John said, 'Look! This is the Lamb of God.' When the two disciples heard John say this, they followed Jesus."

You said John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and you guys just happened to be standing right there because you were

disciples of John the Baptist. When you pointed Jesus out, how did John the Baptist describe Jesus? What title did he give to him?

Question 1: He said, “Look! This is the?” (“Lamb of God.”)

Lamb of God. Oh, I understand. I guess to have a friendship with Jesus means that you first encounter him as the Savior. Lamb of God is the one who gave his life for us; God’s perfect Lamb who sacrificed himself on the cross. And that’s basically how you were introduced to him. That’s fantastic! Let’s take a friendship free throw and see if you can win a prize for everyone here.

Pass him the friendship free throw ball (wadded paper) to attempt a basket.

Teaching Point 2: Friends like to hang out together.

Now, one thing friends like to do is hang out together. Here is what the Bible says about how you first started hanging out with Jesus. When you started to follow him it says....

John 1:38-39,

“Jesus turned around and saw them following him. He asked them, ‘What are you looking for?’

“They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which means “teacher”), ‘where are you staying?’

“Jesus told them, ‘Come, and you will see.’ So they went to see where he was staying and spent the rest of that day with him.”

Question 2: What did Jesus say to you after you asked him where he was staying? (“Come, and you will see.”)

So, before you get to see what Jesus is up to, I guess, you’ve got to follow him. That makes sense. Obviously, your life has never been the same since. For a couple of years, you were with him all the time. You must have really gotten to know him well and appreciated what he did for you.

Let’s take another friendship free throw and see if you can win a prize for everyone here.

Pass him the friendship free throw ball (wadded paper) to attempt a basket.

Teaching Point 3: Friends feel close to each other.

In John 13:21-26, you record the events from the last night you would be with Jesus before he died. You were having a close meal together called the Passover or the Lord's Supper. Everyone knew someone at the table was going to betray Jesus and was talking about whom that person might be. Peter said to you, "Ask Jesus which one it is." Then you leaned close to Jesus, like you put your head right against his shoulder and you asked him. Jesus then revealed that it was Judas.

Question 3: So when you wanted to ask Jesus something that bothered you, what did you do? (*I leaned in closely.*)

I suppose that with a friend, sometimes, especially when they're troubled, it's good to lean in close to one another. It must have been obvious to everyone that Jesus loved you since they wanted you to be the one to ask Jesus for information on such a sensitive issue.

Let's take another friendship free throw and see if you can win a prize for everyone here.

Pass him the friendship free throw ball (wadded paper) to attempt a basket.

Teaching Point 4: Friends help in time of need.

Watching Jesus die on the cross was one of the hardest days of your life. But yet, the Bible tells us that you were the only disciple there watching. John 19:26-27 says:

"Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there. He said to his mother, 'Look, here's your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Look, here's your mother!' From that time on she lived with that disciple in his home."

Jesus looked down at you and when he saw you, the disciple he loved, and his mother standing there, he said to his mother, "Look, here's your son!"

Question 4: What did he say to you? (*"Look, here's your mother!"*)

So, I guess that a friend is one who helps in time of need. John, you must have been quite a good friend for Jesus to trust the care of his mother to you. Let's take another friendship free throw and see if you can win a prize for everyone here.

Pass him the friendship free throw ball (wadded paper) to attempt a basket.

Teaching Point 5: Friends show love or care.

John, you wrote about how Jesus wants us to act toward our friends. He actually gives us advice on how to love our friends in John 15:13.

“...The greatest love you can show is to give your life for your friends.”

I think he’s telling us that it’s not always going to be easy to love our friends. But it’s during those times that we can be the greatest blessing to others.

John, I understand that you wrote more than one book in the Bible. We know that you wrote the Gospel of John, but you also wrote three letters. In 1 John, you write a lot about love.

1 John 4:10-11,

“This is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the payment for our sins. Dear friends, if this is the way God loved us, we must also love each other.”

Question 5: If this is the way God loved us, how must we act towards others? (*Love others.*)

I understand that you’re known as Jesus’ beloved disciple. The books that you wrote in the Bible talk a lot about love. And you’re known as the one Jesus really loved. So when you love a friend, you really care for him/her and would do anything for him/her.

Let’s take another friendship free throw and see if you can win a prize for everyone here.

Pass him the friendship free throw ball (wadded paper) to attempt a basket.

Teaching Point 6: Friends are faithful.

You spent time with Jesus as a close friend during his earthly life. You walked miles together, told stories, laughed, and discovered new adventures of how God was working. But after Jesus’ death and resurrection, he went to heaven. Then you talked about spending time with him in heaven. You wrote the last book of the Bible called the Book of Revelation, where you reveal hearing Jesus telling the church:

“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

That crown of life means that we can live as friends with him forever.

Question 6: Be faithful until death and I will give you what? (*The crown of life.*)

Let’s take another friendship free throw and see if you can win a prize for everyone here.

Pass him the friendship free throw ball (wadded paper) to attempt a basket.

Wrap Up Review

John, you are known as the beloved disciple of Jesus, and you were loyal to him until the very end. That’s the kind of relationship we want to have with him as well. Thank you for being my volunteer today. Hopefully, everyone will remember you as John, Jesus’ friend and the point: **Jesus is your friend, love him to the end.*

Have the volunteer return to his seat in the audience. Lead everyone in a round of applause.

We discussed several qualities for friendship today. To have a close-friend relationship, you have to first meet someone just like John who was introduced to Jesus as the “Lamb of God.” You’ve got to get acquainted, hang out, feel close, and help each other in times of need, just like John helped Jesus take care of his mother when he would no longer be here on earth.

Additionally, true friends love each other and do things for each other that aren’t always pleasant or fun. But of course, the best memories with our friends are made during those times when we have fun and enjoy spending time together. This is what it must be like for us to be with Jesus in heaven.

Let’s go back to our groups and talk about ways that we can grow in our friendship with Jesus, just like John did.

Prayer:

Dear God, we are so thankful for our friends and the many ways they enrich our lives. Just as they enrich us, may we also see how Jesus can enrich us. Help us to get acquainted, hang out, feel close, help, love and spend great time together. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Put this sheet into the volunteer's hand either right after you call him up to the stage or arrange for him to have it beforehand.

Script Page for Audience Volunteer: John the Apostle

Thank you for volunteering!
Your six responses are listed below.
Speak them as an answer to the questions that Raz Mattaz asks you.

Get Acquainted

1. What did John the Baptist call Jesus?

Lamb of God.

Hang Out

2. What did Jesus say after you asked him, "Where are you staying?"

Come, and you will see.

Feel Close

3. When you wanted to ask Jesus something that bothered you, what did you do?

I leaned in closely.

Help Others

4. He said to his mother, "Here's your son." What did he say to you?

Here's your mother.

Love Others

5. If this is the way God loved us, how must we act towards others?

Love others.

Spend Time Together

6. Be faithful until death and I will give you what?

The crown of life.

Instruction for Lesson Project

- Cut out square
- Fold on Line 1 - away from printing
- Turn paper over and fold on line 2 toward printing. It will result in covering the lettering.
- Fold project in half horizontal, then open flat and fold again in half on vertical fold.
 - Slide fingers in slots and meet fingers together to form a center point.

