



Date: _____
Series: Building Christian Character
Winter Year 2, Lesson 36

Being a Great Friend

Primary Scripture: Luke 10:25-37. The parable of the Good Samaritan.

Key Verse: Luke 10:27b, “And love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need friends and they need to learn how to be a friend. To have great friends they need to learn to become a great friend. No better example of friendship is given than Jesus, who gave his life for us. Out of his friendship, we have a new spiritual power to become even better friends. Jesus describes that type of friendship in the parable of the good Samaritan.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus was interested in us more than in himself or his own convenience. Because of that, he came to meet us in the need of our sin and take our sin upon himself.

Jesus in us: Jesus honors us by dwelling within us; accepting us just as we are, and transforming us to be more like him.

Jesus through us: Jesus can use our friendship with others to communicate to them his genuine love. Friendship with us can be a way for others to hear and experience the Gospel.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Prop needed: picture, poster, or newspaper featuring a famous celebrity or sports star

Read Luke 10:25-27. Then say:

We demonstrate that we love the Lord, our God, with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind when we worship him through our songs, the thoughts in our minds, and giving all of our attention to him.

Show kids the picture, poster, or newspaper featuring a famous celebrity or sports star. Make the claim that this person is a close, personal friend.

How many people think that would be really neat?

Next, qualify that statement by what you mean as a "close, personal friend." (Option: This could also be done very effectively with two adults "playing off" each other, one claiming friendship with the famous person, the other challenging the claim by asking probing questions like "How did you two meet?" and "What kinds of things have you done together?" Continue asking questions until it's obvious the famous person doesn't even know the Kids Church leader.)

Well, one time I saw this person at a game (or on TV) and I figured that (so and so, name celebrity) appreciated me being there. I figure that (so and so, name celebrity) must know that I am a fan and he/she would want to be my friend.

The truth of the matter is that (so and so) probably does not know who I am, does not want to be my friend that much, and has not done anything personally for me.

But, there *is* someone else who is even more famous that I know, and he really does want to be my friend. Do you know who that is? The one person who changed history more than anyone else was Jesus. He is God's Son, who came into the world so that he could be my friend. He said, "No one has greater love than this, that they lay down their life for a friend."

Jesus gave his life for me. That is how true of a friend he is. He is also a friend who wants to stay with me all of the time. That is why we are worshipping here today.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Prop needed: gigantic scissors

Show the gigantic scissors and explain that this is the scissors that hurts or "cuts" friendships.

When we talk badly about our friends behind their backs, it can "cut" a friendship. When we never listen to our friends and only want to talk about ourselves, it can "cut" a friendship. When we like someone just because of what they look like on the outside, it can "cut" a friendship. (Every time the word "cut" is used, simulate cutting with the scissors.)

Let's think about anything we might have done this last week that was not very kind to a friend or might have "cut" a friendship. Let's

pray about that, confessing our sin to God, and claiming the power of Jesus and his forgiveness.

Pray a confessional prayer or ask children to come forward to mention different ways we might need to say that we are sorry to God for “cutting” friendships. Let kids know that are forgiven through the power of Jesus, who gave his life for us so that he might call us a friend.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Prop needed: candy bar

Using the candy bar, talk to the kids about sharing.

A great thing about friends is that they share. If a friend had this piece of candy, a real, true, giving friend, might break off half and give it to you just because he likes you. When that happens, the friend usually wants to share other things back.

Do you know what this candy bar reminds me of? It reminds me of how much God has given us. He has given us all we need for our food, our homes, our money, and everything else we need. He gave us the whole candy bar! Since he shared with us, how much are we going to share back with him? Half? That would be wonderful. He said that he would be pleased if we even gave back one-tenth. That means that we could give away a little piece like this and keep most of it for ourselves.

When we bring our offerings to the Lord, we are sharing with a friend. We want to share at least one dollar out of every ten dollars we have. It is a way of saying, “Dear God, I love you as my friend so much that I will share my money that you have given me. I will share it with you to help others.”

Place a portion of the candy bar in the offering basket. Have the kids come forward. As kids come forward to present their offerings, talk about the current mission project.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Due to extended sections in other parts of the lesson, today the Learning Game section will not be implemented.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Today's Bible event will be presented in a video produced by Focus on the Family. It is titled "McGee and Me: Skate Expectations, Episode Four." This movie shows the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Bible event can be reviewed at the end of the tape. The video lasts twenty-four minutes if the opening credits are omitted. The length of the video will eliminate the learning game and abbreviate the teaching section.

Application:

Supplies needed: large fake ears, a comical nose and glasses or nerd glasses, a small cheering banner made with a triangular piece of paper attached to a pencil

How many of you want to have better friends? The way you have better friends is by *becoming* a better friend. You can become a better friend when you have Jesus' power inside of you. Because Jesus gave his life for you and calls you his friend, it means you can do the same for others. Give of yourself to others. This is just like the hero in today's story. There are three things that a true friend will do.

1. **A true friend is more interested in others than just in themselves.**

How was Nick more interested in Patrick and his problems than just his own? *(He chose to make Patrick's problems with Derek his own, and challenged Derek to a race to settle the dispute.)*

There are many different ways we can be more interested in others than just in ourselves. One good way is listening. A good friend is one who really listens. That means they try to understand you and care for you.

Put on large fake ears from a novelty store.

2. A true friend likes others for whom they are and accepts them.

Use a comical nose and glasses, or even nerd glasses, to illustrate this. Ask kids how they saw this demonstrated in the movie. (Patrick was kind of nerdy, but very smart.)

Sometimes people are judged on their outward appearances. Sometimes people are judged only by their talents or abilities. A true friend appreciates you for just whom you are. A true friend accepts you in spite of any faults.

3. A true friend sticks up for others and encourages them.

Again, ask how kids saw this principle demonstrated in the movie. (*Nick's friends investigated suspicious circumstances and rallied around Nick after Derek cheated.*)

A true friend is one who will always stick up for someone even when people are saying bad things about that person. A true friend will help a friend feel better when feeling down or discouraged, and will compliment that person to bring about a better self-image.

Use the cheering banner and wave it as you have kids cheer with you, "**Yeah, friend!**"

Remind kids that the ultimate example of a true friend is Jesus. He gave his life for his friends. When we except Jesus as our Savior and become his friend, we can be better friends with others because Jesus lives in us and gives us his power to serve.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

To reinforce the third friendship principle, have kids share something they have done recently that they are proud of. Have the rest of the group shout together, “**Way to go, _____!**”

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce the song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

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Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- picture, poster, or newspaper featuring a famous celebrity or sports star

The Power of the Cross:

- gigantic scissors

Offering:

- candy bar

Bible Reading:

- “McGee and Me: Skate Expectations, Episode Four,” a video produced by Focus on the Family—order from: http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111_437.vhtml

Application:

- large fake ears
- comical nose and glasses or nerd glasses
- small cheering banner made with a triangular piece of paper and a pencil