



WEEK
ONE
SEPTEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP
K-1

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Better Together

Two people are better than one
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose your friends carefully.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help
when trouble comes.
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Friendship—Using your words and
actions to show others you care

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Made in the Image" from *Ready Set Go*, and
"Friend Like You" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Friends Can . . .
Application Activity: What Good Friends Look Like
Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Passing
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
GodTime devotional for kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to guide you as you plant the seeds that will set a foundation for your kids' relationships and friendships in the future. Pray that your few would have the wisdom, even at their young age, to evaluate their friendships through the lens of what God wants for their relationships. Pray for the kids who might feel like they don't have many friends or simply feel a bit lonely. Ask God to help those kids identify friends they do have or kids they could develop a friendship with.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Better Together

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Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: "All About Me" Activity Page, offering container, and crayons or markers

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Choose your friends carefully.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids as they arrive and encourage any who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid an "All About Me" page to complete.
- Be prepared to read each of the categories to pre-readers as they work on their answers.
- Allow the kids to share one or two things on their page with the rest of the group as a way to get to know their friends!
- Collect the pages to keep so you can learn more about the kids in your group!

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2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather your group to sit in a circle.
- Select one kid to sit in the center of the circle.
- Call out a category and instruct any kids who fall within

that category to raise their hands.

- Categories:
 - Friends with baby brothers
 - Friends with cats
 - Friends that are left-handed
 - Friends with blue eyes
 - Friends who dislike chocolate
 - Friends who love to read
 - Friends with dogs
 - Friends who love to draw
 - Friends who like broccoli
 - Friends who love the beach
- The kid in the center will walk around the circle and count the number of hands raised.
- Say, "How many friends have baby brothers?" or "How many friends are left-handed?" Prompt the kid in the center to give the answer.
- Select a different kid to sit in the center and call out a different category as kids raise their hands again.
- Continue until every kid has had a turn in the center.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! We have a lot in common. I love learning about my friends. Life is better with friends, isn't it? **[Transition] We're talking about friendship all month long! Let's head to Large Group to find out why friends are so important and how we should choose them.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



1. FRIENDS CAN . . .
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: A playground ball

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain how we can see from today's Bible story that

there are four things friends do:

1. Friends get more done.
2. Friends help each other.
3. Friends stand up for each other.
4. Friends trust God together.

- Instruct kids to start rolling the ball across the circle to one another.
- Remind kids that the ball must stay on the floor as they roll it.
- After a few passes, call out a number between one and four.
 - If you say, "Three," the kids will pass the ball three times, starting from the point at which you called out the number.
 - The kid holding the ball after the third pass gets to answer one of the questions from category three below.
- Once the kid answers the question, start rolling the ball again, remembering to keep it on the floor at all times.
- Call out another number and ask a different question below.
- If the kids get rough with their passing, pick up the ball and remind them that we can only play when the ball stays on the ground.
- Continue playing until you've covered all four categories and all kids have had a chance to answer.

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Categories and Questions:

1. Friends get more done.
 - a. What is a task or job that is easier to do with help?
 - b. What is a task or job that is more FUN to do with a friend?
 - c. Talk about a time when you helped a friend get a job done.
2. Friends help each other.
 - a. How do friends help each other?
 - b. Talk about a time when you helped a friend. What happened?
 - c. Talk about a time when a friend helped you. What happened?
3. Friends stand up for each other.
 - a. What does it mean to "stand up" for your friends? (*to keep playing with them even if other friends walk away; invite them to sit with you or play with you if they're alone; defend your friend if someone isn't being nice to them*)
 - b. How does it feel when someone stands up for you?
 - c. How does it feel when someone doesn't stand up for you?



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SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. FRIENDS CAN . . . , CONTINUED)

4. Friends trust God together.
 - a. What is one way you could help a friend learn more about God? (*pray for them, talk about what you learned at church, invite them to church, share a verse*)
 - b. How can you show God's love to a friend?
 - c. Have you ever prayed for a friend?
- Set the ball aside once you've covered all four categories.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Friends are so important! Ecclesiastes, a book in the Old Testament, tells us that two are better than one. Friends make everything more fun! Good friends get more done, they help each other, they stand up for each other, and they trust God together. That's why it's so important to **choose your friends carefully**. And remember, the best way to have good friends is to be a good friend.

[Make it Personal] (*Tell the kids about a time when a good friend helped you, stood up for you, or helped you trust God.*)



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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***2. WHAT GOOD FRIENDS LOOK LIKE**
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Good Friends" Activity Page, pencils or crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out a "Good Friends" page to each kid.
- Point out the different parts as you discuss the attributes of a good friend.
- Encourage the kids to color their pages and fill in the blanks with their answers to the questions below:
 - Guide kids to point to the mouth and ask: What is something a good friend does with their mouth? (*encourages, cheers up someone who is sad, uses kind words, smiles*)
 - Guide kids to point to the ears and ask: What does a good friend do with their ears? (*They LISTEN!*)
 - Guide kids to point to the hands and ask: What does a good friend do with their hands? (*helps, shares, uses gentle hands, gives a high five*)
 - Guide kids to point to the arms and ask: What does a good friend do with their arms? (*hugs, helps, comforts with an arm over your shoulder when you're sad*)
- When kids have finished filling in all of the blanks, give them a few minutes to color their page.

Note: For kindergartners and/or prereaders, be prepared to help them write short words in each blank. Don't worry about correcting their spelling. Let them sound it out and write as best they can. If they are really struggling, write in "Smile" for the mouth; "Listen" for the ears; "Help" for the hands; and "Hug" for the arms.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This is a great picture of what a good friend looks like. Let's remember to **choose your friends carefully**. Let's be a good friend by (*point to different parts on the page as you review*) using our mouths to say kind words, listening with our ears so we can understand what our friends need, using our hands to help, and our arms to hug. God gave us these ears, mouths, hands, and arms because He loves us. And we can show God how thankful we are when we love others, too! Take this home as a reminder to **choose your friends carefully** and to be a good friend, too.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



3. MEMORY VERSE PASSING

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, a playground ball, floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into groups of two or three and give each group a Bible.
- Help them find Proverbs 17:17 using the navigation tips below.

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Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Proverbs at the top of the page as you say, "Proverbs." Then, guide kids to find the big number 17 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 17 for the little 17; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Proverbs in the list under Old Testament. You can help by telling them that Proverbs starts with the letters P-R. When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 17. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 17 in chapter 17.

- Read the verse aloud together.
- Use the tape to make two parallel tape lines on the floor about eight feet apart.
- Count off the kids, one, two; one, two, etc.
- Send the "ones" to line up shoulder to shoulder on one tape line and the "twos" to line up facing the ones on the other tapeline.
- Hand the playground ball to a kid at the end of one of the lines.
- Encourage the kids to toss the ball back and forth between the lines as you repeat the words of the verse, one word per toss.
- When you get to "Proverbs 17:17" have that kid hold the ball then toss it back to you.
- Say, "SWITCH" and instruct all kids to move to a new spot on the SAME tapeline.
- Repeat the verse as you toss the ball and see if they can say it faster.
- After three or four rounds, hold the ball and see if the kids can recite the verse from memory.



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(3. MEMORY VERSE PASSING, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

“God has given us clear instructions on how to be a good friend in this verse! What does a friend do at all times? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, a friend LOVES! Let’s choose friends who are kind and loving, even when it’s hard. Let’s BE friends who listen and help, too. Let’s be there for our friends when things are awesome and when things are not so awesome. Because to have good friends, we need to be good friends, too. Remember, **choose your friends carefully.**”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Good Friends" Activity Pages from "What Good Friends Look Like" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have the kids hold their completed "Good Friends" Activity Pages.
- Give them a few moments to pray on their own, asking God for help to choose their friends carefully.
- Close in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, thank You for mouths, eyes, ears, hands, and feet that we can use to love others. Help us to remember to **choose your friends carefully** and to be a good friend too! Thank You for loving us and for giving us friends who make everything better. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their "Good Friends" pictures and talk about what a good friend looks like. Remind kids as they leave to be a good friend this week and to **choose your friends carefully**.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "All About Me" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Paper
- An offering container
- Crayons or markers

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.*

1. FRIENDS CAN . . .

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- A playground ball

*2. WHAT GOOD FRIENDS LOOK LIKE [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Good Friends" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Paper
- Pencils or crayons

3. MEMORY VERSE PASSING [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- A playground ball
- Floor tape

4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Good Friends" Activity Page from "What Good Friends Look Like" Activity

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.