

The Power of Friendship

Biblical Truth: God is all about relationships.

Key Verse: John 15:13–15

Lesson Goal: To reinforce the importance of friendship in bringing others to Christ.

🎯 Breaking Ice

Play a game called “Getting In” to get the discussion rolling about what true friendship should look like. All you need are some 3 X 5 cards and a group of five or more students. You’re going to write down “character traits” on the cards and give them to your students who have to “act out” whatever the card says. Two groups of three students each will get a card that says, **“Stand in a closed circle of three people and lock arms. No matter what happens, do not break your arms and do not let anyone join your group.”** Then to two or three students give cards that say, **“Go to a corner and be alone. Get consumed in a book. Act like you don’t care to be with anyone. Don’t respond to anyone but your youth leader.”** Then to four or five students give cards that say, **“You need to try your best to get into one of the groups of friends. Bribe them – do whatever it takes. You need friendship.”** * Numbers may vary depending on the size of your group. After the “actors” have their cards, tell them to begin the exercise and see what happens. You may need to step in and direct them if they act like they don’t know what to do. Use these questions to transition into the lesson:

1. How did those on the outside of the groups feel trying to get in and not being able to?
2. Are there groups of people that make it impossible for someone to get into?
3. (To those who were alone) How did being alone during all of this feel?
4. What should our response be to those who are alone and on the outside?
5. What was wrong with the friendships in this exercise? How can those friendships be better utilized for God’s purposes?

🎯 Jumping In

Play the game “Friendship Charades.” Divide the students into two teams. Before the meeting write down all the qualities of good friendships on 3 X 5 cards. Write one quality per card (i.e. – love, respect, joy, common interests, fun . . .). Have one player on each team act out each quality while the other team tries to guess it. Use it to discuss the characteristics of friendship.

🎯 Diving Deep

Use the worksheet to take the discussion about friendship to a deeper level.

🎯 Drip Drying

To close the service, give the students a friendship challenge. Have them write down the name of a person who they need to become friends with OR strengthen their relationship with. Tell the students to pray for this person and try to find an opportunity to act.



Let's Be Friends

A DISCUSSION

1. Define friendship in your own words?
2. How important is it to have friends? Explain.
3. Can a person be perfectly happy without friends? Why? Why not?
4. If you had to describe a perfect friendship, what would you say?
5. What do the following verses have to say about friendship?
 - Proverbs 27:5-6
 - Mark 2:1-4
 - Job 2:11-13
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9-11
6. Read John 15:13-15. What is your reaction to this verse? How did Christ live this verse out?
7. In what ways does God present himself as your friend? How should we respond to this?
8. How can we “lay down our lives” for our friends in today’s world? How can we stand up for them?
9. Read the following verses and discuss the multiple ways God befriends us:
 - Hebrews 13:5-8
 - Romans 8:38-39
 - 1 Peter 5:7
10. Will a person come to know Christ if that person has no Christ-like friends? How important is friendship when it comes to evangelism? How can we use our friendships to communicate God’s love to others?