

**Scripture Text:** John 15:13-15

**Memory Verse:** “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

**Biblical Truth That Will Be Learned:** Next to our family, the strongest bond in society should be friendship.

# The Power of Friendship

SMALL GROUP/SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS



**1** Have the students write the letters of the word “f-r-i-e-n-d-s-h-i-p” down the side of a piece of paper. Have them write down the name of a friend for each letter. Tell them to follow these instructions:

1. Put three stars by the name of a friend who they would stand up for.
2. Put a cross by the name of a friend who they would invite to church.
3. Put a smiley face by the name of the friend who they would like to be on a team with.
4. Underline the name of the friend who they would share clothes with.
5. Circle the name of the friend who they would like to eat lunch with.
6. Put a star by the friend who they would like to have over for a slumber party.

Introduce the memory verse from John 15:13. Discuss the friendship that is mentioned in this verse. Remind the students of the Best Friend they could ever have—JESUS!



**2** Give the students time to make a “rap” about friendship using some of these words: fun, one, best, rest, love, above, time, slime, good, hood, great, wait. Have them work together or in teams to create a “friendship rap.”



**3** Play a game of “I say, you say” with popular friends. For example, you say “David,” and they should say “Jonathan.” Here is a list of popular “friends”:

Miley, Lily  
Drake, Josh  
Aslan, Lucy or Ed  
Mickey, Minnie  
Peter, James or John  
Jack, Jill

Tom, Jerry  
Troy, Chad  
Shrek, Donkey  
Paul, Silas  
Naomi, Ruth  
Bert, Ernie



## 1. True Friendship-What is it?

Read the following scenarios and have the students vote if the characters were true friends or not.

\* Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water. Jack fell down and broke his arm and Jill ran to him, wrapped her coat around him and ran to get help. Was Jill a true friend?

\* Corey and Clive became good friends one summer. They spent a lot of time together. When they ended up going to the same school, Corey was very excited when it was time to go to school. However, when he got to school, he noticed that Clive would not have anything to do with him and he even hung out with the kids that made fun of Corey. Was Clive a true friend?

\* David and Jonathan were the best of friends. Jonathan’s father, the king, was very jealous of David and wanted to harm him and even kill him. When David told Jonathan this, Jonathan thought of a plan to see if the king really wanted to kill David. When he realized that David was in danger, he went out of his way to protect David and keep him safe. Was Jonathan a true friend?

\* A large group of people were very evil and lived their lives without God. A man who loved them all very much, was beaten and spat on by them, he was made fun of by

them and eventually was killed by them. However, because He loved them so much, He forgave them. Was this man a true friend?

Of course, this man was Jesus. He is our perfect example of a true friend. Have the kids think of a friend that they have that would do what Jesus did for them. Remind them that Jesus is the best friend they will ever have.

## 2. You Can Depend on Me

Have the children find the word “dependable” in the dictionary and it will direct them to the word “reliable.” Explain to them that something is reliable if it proves itself every time you test it or use it. Show them each of the following items and have the students “test” the items to see if they are reliable.

- Cell phone (Ask what could keep it from being reliable.)
- Rubber bands
- Shoe
- Keys
- People (What people can you trust to be reliable?)

Remind the students that Christ is the Friend that they can trust in. He is always dependable and we can rely on Him for everything.

## 3. The Power of Your Friendship Could Lead Someone to the Power of His Salvation

Ask the students what the difference is between acquaintances and friends. Have them list the qualities of a good friend and include these in the list:

- Good friends listen to each other— really listen.
- Good friends don’t put each other down or hurt each other’s feelings.
- Good friends share in the happiness of each other.
- Good friends try to understand the moods of each other.
- Good friends give sincere compliments.
- Good friends help solve problems.

- Good friends know it’s OK to disagree.
- Good friends are trustworthy.
- Good friends respect each other.
- Good friends care about each other.

Your list might include other traits. Help them to realize that friendships can be very powerful. Help them to understand that in being a good friend, you will care about their relationship with God. A good friend will care if their friend is a Christian. Explain to the students that by being a good friend, the power of their friendship can lead their friend to Christ. Remind them to pray for their friends and ask God for opportunities to talk with them about Christ.



**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for the blessings of good friends in our lives. Help us to be good friends and to care enough about our friends to invite them to church and invite them to know You. Amen.



**Take It Home:** Have the students make a poster of what friendship means to them. Have them include the qualities of being a good friend that you discussed earlier.