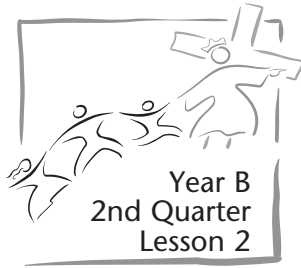


LESSON



Best Friends

COMMUNITY

We respect one another.

References

1 Samuel 18:1-5; 20:1-42; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 649-655.

Memory Verse

"Jonathan . . . loved [David] as himself" (1 Samuel 18:3, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God wants them to be a true friend.

Feel happy that they have friends.

Respond by being a loyal and true friend.

The Message



True friends respect and love each other.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

David and Jonathan are good friends. Jonathan is King Saul's son. When David is in trouble because King Saul wants to hurt him out of jealousy, Jonathan helps him. They promise that they will always be friends as long as they live.

This is a lesson about community.

Real friends care about each other. True friends are loyal in good times and bad.

Teacher Enrichment

"After the slaying of Goliath, Saul kept David with him, and would not permit him to return to his father's house. . . . Saul . . . felt that the kingdom would be more secure if there could be connected with him one who received instruction from the Lord. . . . Since David was favored and shielded by the Lord, his presence might be a protection to Saul when he went out with him to war.

TWO

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. Face-to-face B. Elbow Tag C. Thumbbody's Friend	none none none
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 27. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	none
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	Buddies	Little Voices Praise Him songbook
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	Share an Arrow	arrow pattern (see p. 140), heavy paper, crayons, scissors

"It was the providence of God that had connected David with Saul. David's position at court would give him a knowledge of affairs, in preparation for his future greatness. It would enable him to gain the confidence of the nation. The vicissitudes and hardships which befell him, through the enmity of Saul, would lead him to feel his dependence upon God, and to put his whole trust in Him. And the friendship of Jonathan for David was also of God's providence,

to preserve the life of the future ruler of Israel. In all these things God was working out His gracious purposes, both for David and for the people of Israel" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 649).

Room Decorations

Continue with scenery from Lesson 1. Add a "throne room" using a chair with arms covered by a purple or red cloth, with a crown placed on the seat. Also use this for Lessons 3-8, 12, and 13.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask them how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Face-to-face

Have the children pair off. Say: **Everyone should have a partner. Now look at your partner's face and decide who will be the leader first. When I say "Go!" I want the leaders to make funny faces. But the partner cannot smile or laugh. Go!** Allow the children a few minutes to make faces.

Now I want you to switch leaders. When I say "Go," start making funny faces. Allow time to do this. **Now this time when I say "Go," I want the first leader to make funny faces and their partner to copy those faces. Go!** Allow a few minutes for them to mimic each other. **Now switch leaders. When I say "Go," start making funny faces. Your partner should copy you.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How did you feel when I said you couldn't smile or laugh when your partner made funny faces? What did you think about copying your partner's face? Which was easier? Is it easier *not* to laugh or to copy faces? Why do you think so? Was it because you wanted to be like your friend and do what your friend did?**

Real friends love each other. When one is sad, the other is sad too. When one needs help, the other tries to help. Our Bible story today is about two special friends. They liked being together, they helped each other, and they showed respect and love to each other. That's what Jesus wants us to do for our friends too. Today's message is:



True friends respect and love each other.

Say that with me.

B. Elbow Tag

Have the children sit in a circle. (If you have a large class form several circles.) Let one child be "The Tapper." That child will walk around the circle tapping classmates on the head or shoulder saying, "Friend, Friend, Friend," until decid-

ing on one child. Then they say, “Elbow.” The person they say “Elbow” to must get up and chase the first child around the circle. If and when the first child is caught, the second child taps elbows with them. If the first child reaches the empty spot before being tagged, the second child becomes “The Tapper.” Play several rounds until most of the children have had a chance to be “The Tapper.”

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to have to chase someone to tap elbows? Would you like to have to do that all the time? Probably not. Friends respect and love each other and show their friends that they do. When one is sad, the other is sad too. When one needs help, the other tries to help. When one needs cheering up or comforting, the other can do that. Our Bible story today is about two special friends. They cared for each other, had fun together, and respected and loved each other. That’s what Jesus wants us to do for our friends too. Today’s message is:**



True friends respect and love each other.

Say that with me.

C. Thumbbody’s Friend

Have groups of children gather in the four corners of the room. Going clockwise and starting with the first group, have each group go to the other, hold their thumbs up and press their thumbs against all the children’s thumbs (one at a time) in that group and say, “I’m thumbbody’s friend and that thumbbody is you!” The groups should continue until every group has interacted with the others.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **We went all over the room to tell our friends that they are special. What kinds of things do you like doing with your friends? Do you have a best friend? Our Bible story today is about two boys who were best friends. They cared about each other, liked doing things together, and they loved each other. That’s what Jesus wants us to do for our friends too. Today’s message is:**



True friends respect and love each other.

Say that with me.

(Adapted from *Lively Bible Lessons for Preschoolers* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, Inc., 1991], p. 26.)



*** NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 27.**



Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Say: **Today we are going to talk about two best friends and a king. The two best friends are David and Jonathan. The king is King Saul.**

To get the children interacting with the story, show them a picture of David and Jonathan. Point to each one and have the children say their names when you get to that point in the story. Remind the children that you won't say the names, they have to, in order to help you tell the story. The names are in bold in the story to help you remember to show the picture. Practice a few times. Also:

When you say: The children:

friend, friends put fist over heart

Read or tell the story.

King Saul sent for **David** to come to him. "**David** I want you to stay here and live in the palace," King Saul said.

So **David** moved to King Saul's beautiful palace. **David** did whatever King Saul asked him to do. He did all his jobs well.

David met King Saul's oldest son, **Jonathan**. **David** and **Jonathan** became best **friends** [*fist on heart*]. They liked to go places and do things together.

"Let's go shoot arrows at the targets!" **Jonathan** may have said to his **friend** [*fist on heart*].

"Let's go ride our horses through the woods," **David** may have said to his **friend** [*fist on heart*].

Jonathan even gave **David** the clothes he was wearing. **Jonathan** loved **David** like he loved himself. And **David** loved **Jonathan** just as much.

The people of Israel loved **David** too. That made King Saul very angry. King

Saul thought the people loved **David** more than they loved him. King Saul became so angry that he tried to hurt **David**!

"Your father, King Saul, is trying to hurt me!" **David** said to **Jonathan**.

"That's not true!" **Jonathan** said.

"Yes, it is!" said **David**. "I'll prove it to you. I'm going to hide in the field. When your father sees that I am not sitting in my seat for dinner, you tell him that I went home to visit my family. If he gets very upset when you tell him, you will know that he is trying to hurt me."

"OK," **Jonathan** answered. "You hide by the stone pile in the field. If my father really is trying to hurt you, I will tell you. Then you can run away and be safe."

"This is my plan," **Jonathan** said. "I'll go to the field and shoot three arrows over by the stone pile. I'll send my servant boy to get the arrows and bring them back to me. If I shout to the boy and say, 'Go farther—the arrows are ahead of you,' then you will know that my father, King Saul, really does want to hurt you. And you need to run away to be safe."

King Saul sat down for dinner that evening. He looked around. He saw that **David's** chair was empty. But he didn't say anything about it.

The next day at dinnertime, King Saul saw that **David's** chair was still empty. He looked at **Jonathan**. "Where is **David**?" he asked.

"**David** went home to his family for a little while," **Jonathan** answered.

King Saul's face turned red. He was angry. "Don't you think I know that you want to protect **David**? As long as he lives, you will never be king!" He screamed, "Go get **David**! I want to destroy him!"

Jonathan was very sorry that his father wanted to do such a bad thing. He loved his father, but he didn't want him to hurt his **friend** [fist on heart] **David**.

The next morning **Jonathan** carried his bow and arrows out to the field. He took out an arrow. **Jonathan** aimed the arrow and shot it.

His servant boy ran to find the arrow and bring it back to **Jonathan**.

"Run farther!" **Jonathan** called loudly. "Hurry! Hurry!"

Soon **Jonathan** sent his servant boy back to town with his bow and arrows. Then he and **David** said goodbye. They hugged each other and cried. **Jonathan** was very, very sad that his **friend** [fist on heart] had to go away. **David** was sad, too, that he might never see his **friend** [fist on heart] **Jonathan** again.

"We may not be able to see each other for a while," **Jonathan** said. "But we will still be **friends** [fist on heart]."

"Yes, we will be **friends** [fist on heart] forever!" said **David**.

Debriefing

Ask: **Where did David live? Why did King Saul get angry at David? Was Jonathan a true friend to David? How did Jonathan help his friend David? Why were David and Jonathan sad at the end of the story?**

Do you have a best friend? What kinds of things do you do with your best friend? What do you do to show respect and love to your best friend? Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:



True friends respect and love each other.

Bible Study

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 18:1-5 and 20:1-42 and say: **This is where we find today's story in the Bible.** Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who were friends? What did Jonathan give to David to show him he was his friend? How did Jonathan love David? (as himself) How did Jonathan help David? Was he acting like a true friend? How can you be a true friend? Let's remember . . .**



True friends respect and love each other.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

Open your Bible and turn to 1 Samuel 18:3 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse for today.** Read the verse aloud: "**Jonathan . . . loved [David] as himself.**" Then proceed to teach the memory verse as follows:

Jonathan . . . loved

Cross arms over chest.



[David]

Point to others.



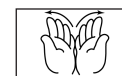
as himself.

Point to self.



1 Samuel 18:3

Palms together, then open.



You Need:

☐ Bible

You Need:

☐ Bible

3

Applying the Lesson

Buddies

You Need:

- *Little Voices Praise Him* songbook

Tell the students you are going to tell them some ways that friends treat each other. They are to give you the thumbs-up sign if it's a loving way to treat their friend; or a thumbs-down sign if it's not. Then read the following:

1. Tony's friend is learning to ride a bicycle without training wheels. Tony encourages him by saying "You're doing a great job!"
2. Martha fell when she was racing with her friend Charlotte. Charlotte stopped and helped Martha.
3. Tara wants Molly's doll, but knows she can't have it. Tara uses a pen to draw on Molly's doll's legs.
4. Jack's mom just gave him a bowl of ripe cherries. He asks if he can share them with his friend Adam.
5. The children are playing hide-and-seek. Richard can't find anyone, and he's getting upset. Finally he shouts, "I don't like any of you. I'm going home!"

Have the students get in a circle with their arms around each other's shoulders

and sway back and forth. Ask: **Have you ever heard someone say you are their buddy? What does that mean? Yes, that you are good friends. Let's sing a song about buddies.** Lead them in singing "Buddies" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 256). Or lead the children in singing the following song to the tune of "This Old Man."

Good Friends

I love you.

You love me.

We are good friends you can see.

Good friends help each other out. That's what love is all about.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do friends do for each other?** (pray for, share with, laugh with, cry with, play with, etc.) **How are you going to treat your friends this week? How will they feel when you show respect and love to them? Let's say our message together:**



True friends respect and love each other.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Share an Arrow**

Use the arrow pattern (see p. 140). The children are to color and cut out the arrows. Suggest that they give their arrow to a good friend.

Debriefing

Ask: **With whom will you share your arrow? Why did you choose that person?**

Say: **When you share your arrow, be sure to tell them about David and Jonathan. You can tell them that you love them too because:**



True friends respect and love each other.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- ☐ arrow pattern (see p. 140)
- ☐ heavy paper
- ☐ crayons
- ☐ scissors

Closing

Pray for the children. Ask God to help them be true friends and to show their respect and love to one another.

PRAYER AND PRAISE**Fellowship**

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "A Friend of Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 254)—Insert "David."
- "The Friendship Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 255)
- "Buddies" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 256)
- "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 260)
- "My Best Friend Is Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 218)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*.

Offering

Say: **We show others we are a friend and love them when we bring our offering to Sabbath School.**

Prayer

Have the children get into pairs with a friend. Hold hands and kneel together. Have each pair thank Jesus for friends.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

STUDENT LESSON

Best Friends

References

1 Samuel 18:1-5;
20:1-42;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*, pp. 649-
655

Memory Verse

"Jonathan . . .
loved [David]
as himself"
(1 Samuel 18:3,
NIV).

The Message

True friends
respect and
love each
other.

Who is your best friend? What do you like to do together? David and Jonathan were best friends who respected and loved each other.

King Saul sent for David. "Come and live in the palace," the king said. "I want you to work for me."

So David moved to the king's beautiful palace. David soon met King Saul's oldest son, Jonathan. David and Jonathan liked each other and became best friends.

"Let's go shoot arrows!" Jonathan may have called to David.

"Let's go ride horses," David may have said to Jonathan.

The people of Israel grew to love David too. And that made King Saul think that the people loved David more than they loved him. King Saul became so angry that he tried to hurt David!

"Your father is trying to hurt me!" David told his friend Jonathan.

"That can't be true!" Jonathan exclaimed.

"But it is!" David insisted. "Soon a festival will begin, and the king will expect me to be there. I will go to see my brothers. Two days after the festival I will return and hide in the field. When your father sees that I am not at the festival dinner, tell him that I went to visit my family. If he gets very upset, you will know that he is trying to hurt me."

"All right," Jonathan answered. "Hide by the stone pile in the field. If my father really is trying to hurt you, I will tell you. Here's my plan," Jonathan continued. "I will shoot arrows over by the stone pile. Then I will send my servant boy to get

the arrows. If I shout to the boy and say, 'Go farther—the arrows are ahead of you,' then you will know that my father really does want to hurt you, and you need to run away to be safe."

When King Saul sat down for the

festival dinner that day, he saw that David's chair was empty. But he didn't say anything. The next day at dinner time the king saw that David's chair was still empty. He turned to Jonathan. "Where is David?" he asked.

"David went to visit his family during the festival," Jonathan answered.

King Saul's face turned red with anger. "Don't

you think I know that you want to protect David? As long as he lives, you will never be king!" he screamed. "Go get David! I want to destroy him."

Jonathan knew then that his father really wanted to hurt his friend David.

The next morning Jonathan went to the field. He took out an arrow, aimed it near the stone pile, and shot it. Jonathan's servant boy ran to find the arrow.

"Run farther!" Jonathan called loudly. "The arrow is ahead of you."

When the boy came back, Jonathan sent him back to town. Then he and David said goodbye. "We may not be able to see each other for a while," Jonathan said. "But we will still be friends," he promised.

"Yes, we will be friends forever!" said David. And they were.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

Jonathan . . . loved. Cross arms over chest.

[David] Point to others.

as himself. Point to self.

1 Samuel 18:3 Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Read portions of 1 Samuel 18:1-5 and 20:1-42.

Ask: What did Jonathan give to David to show he was his friend? How did Jonathan help David? Why were they sad?

Help your child draw a picture of their best friend. If your child cannot identify a best friend, have them draw someone they love or someone they think loves them.

Monday

Read and explain 1 Samuel 18:1-3 to your child. Then have them give someone in your family a hug and tell them they love them.

Encourage your child to share the arrow made in Sabbath School with a friend and tell them the story of David and Jonathan. (Or help them draw an arrow shape on heavy paper and write the memory verse on it, color it, cut it out, and share it with someone.)



Tuesday

Read 1 Samuel 18:4 together. Help your child go

through their clothing and find things that can be given to Community Services. Take your child with you to deliver them.

Wednesday

Have your child name and count all their friends. Ask:

Do you have one very special friend?

Why do you like that

person so much? Remind

them that Jesus wants to be their very best friend.



Thursday

Ask your child to name a special friend and talk about something they might like to do for their friend, then help them do it. Or let your child invite a special friend to dinner and worship Friday evening.

Help your child thank Jesus for special friends. Ask Him to help your child be a good friend too.

Friday

For family worship, have everyone participate in acting out the David and Jonathan story. Help your child make a bow and arrow from dowels or sticks and twine. Ask: How can you show your friends that you love them?

Before prayer, sing songs about friendship. Thank Jesus for your family's friends.