

Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care.



DAY 1

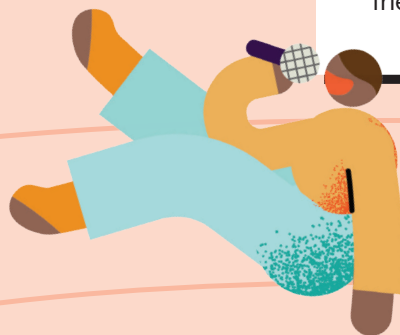
Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

This month, we're talking about friendship! Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care! Name some of your favorite friends:

.....
.....

Chances are, the people you listed are fun, helpful, kind, and encouraging! And hopefully, they would say the same thing about you. Good friends make everything better for sure.

Take a minute to pray and thank God for the friends you've listed above. Ask God to help you to be a good friend to them, to use words and actions that build them up and show you care. Because two people really are better than one!



DAY 2

Read Proverbs 22:24-25

We all lose our cool sometimes. But it's not fun to hang around someone who constantly loses their temper over something that shouldn't be such a big deal. That's why it's important to choose your friends carefully. Because when someone around you gets really upset about something silly, you could end up getting hurt. Or even, you could start to pick up their bad temper too.

Think about the kids at school or in your neighborhood that you regularly hang out with. Which of your friends can remain calm under pressure? Make sure you have friends like that in your closest circles. Because friends who keep their cool will help you keep yours too.

Negative To Positive

Today's verse is full of things we shouldn't do! How could you rewrite today's verse to list what we should do instead? Fill in the blanks below:

"Choose friends with Hang out with friends that stay You might learn their habits. And then you'll be a friend."





DAY 3

Read I Corinthians 15:33

Today's verse reminds us that your closest friends can affect your own behavior. Their bad habits, their tempers, their tendency to say unkind things, might cause you to do the same. Even if that kid seems to be the coolest kid in your class, God reminds us not to be fooled.

Memory Verse

Grab a piece of paper and write today's verse. As you write, ask God to help you not be fooled and to choose your friends carefully.

DAY 4

Read Proverbs 13:20

Choosing friends carefully is a bit like camouflage! When we choose friends who are wise, we become wise. But the opposite is true too. If you surround yourself with people who make poor choices, you might find yourself making poor choices too.

It's easy to begin to look and act like the people you spend the most time with. That's why it's important to choose friends who will make you better, wiser, stronger, and kinder. Friends who follow Jesus and display the fruits of His Spirit like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness too.

Cuttlefish Camo

With a parent's permission, check out some cuttlefish videos on YouTube. Watch how they change their appearance to blend in with their surroundings!

Choose your friends carefully.



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DAY 1

Read Proverbs 18:24

Do you know what the word “faithful” means? Faithful means loyal, constant, and steady. Do you have a faithful friend? A friend who...encourages you when you're down? Makes you laugh when it's the very last thing you want to do? Not only makes a promise but keeps it?

Are you a faithful friend who sticks closer than a brother? Or an unfaithful fickle friend who isn't reliable?

Ask Your Adults

Interview your parents today and ask the following questions:

1. Who is your best friend and why?
2. Read Proverbs 18:24 together. What do you think this verse means?
3. What does it mean to be a faithful friend?

DAY 2

Read Luke 6:31

Did you know that Jesus had friends while He was here on earth? It's true! There were the 12 disciples of course. But there were also women who followed Him. Jesus was friends with Mary and Martha and Lazarus! People lived out what he taught. Jesus treated others the way He wanted to be treated! He was patient and kind and loving toward them, even when they didn't understand what He was trying to do.

Be That Friend

Make a list of ten characteristics of a good friend. (Examples: kind, generous, a good listener, funny, etc.) Then circle your top three! For the next 24 hours, do your best to treat your friends this way; because to have good friends, it's important to be a good friend!



Read 1 John 4:7

When was the last time someone made you a promise? Did they keep it? When was the last time you made a promise to someone else? Did you follow through? Sometimes, we say something without really thinking it through. We make a promise with no real plan for following through. And then when we do break that promise, we leave the other person disappointed.

God never does that. When God makes a promise, God keeps it! As you look for friends who keep their promises, ask God to help you love others and keep your promises too! Because friends keep their promises.

Cross It Out

Mark out all the letters of the alphabet in order starting with the first letter "A" all the way to "Z" in the puzzle below. Then read today's verse!

ADEARB FRIENDS, CLETDUSELOVE
 FONEGANOTHERHBECAUSEILOVE
 JCOMESKFROMLGOD.MEVERYONE
 NWHOOLOVESPHASQBECOMERA
 SCHILDTOFUGODVANDWKNOWSX
 GOD.Y1JOHNZ 4:7



Read 2 Samuel 9:7

In our Bible story this week, we talked about the unlikely friendship between David and Jonathan. They should have been enemies. After all, as the son of King Saul, Jonathan could have been jealous and angry that God had chosen David as the next king. But Jonathan loved David as himself. He protected David from his own father who wanted to harm him. In return, David promised to protect Jonathan's family as long as he was alive.

That's why David sought out Jonathan's grandson Mephibosheth. David kept his promise by protecting and providing for Mephibosheth like he was a member of his own family.

Have you ever had a friend who went out of their way to keep a promise to you? That kind of friend is a friend worth keeping! Are you a friend like that? Are you a promise keeper too?

For Sure

Fill in the missing consonants from today's verse below.

"...David told him, "oua.....e
u.....e..." 2 Samuel 9:7a, NIV

Ask God to help you be the kind of friend others can be sure of by keeping your promises!

Answer: You can be sure

Friends keep their promises.



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DAY 1

Read I Thessalonians 5:11

Tower Build Take One

Grab some plastic cups and build the tallest tower you can! Take a moment to admire your work and then knock that tower down. Leave those cups where they are, you'll come back to them in just a minute!

When it comes to friendship, God reminds us that it's important to encourage each other, to build each other up! When you are having a bad day, a kind word from a friend can help turn things around. When a friend is discouraged, something you say can help them remember they are valued and loved!

Good friends pay attention and encourage each other! And part of building others up is standing up for them. Sometimes, you might need to defend a friend who is being picked on. You might need to stand up for someone when others are being unkind or when that friend is being ignored!

Tower Build Take two

Let's make our tower stand up stronger! Grab some paper. Set two cups on a hard surface side by side, then stack a piece of paper on top. Continue in the same way, adding paper in between the cups to make the tower more stable. Remember, this week to build others up because friends stand up for one another!



DAY 2

Read Romans 12:10

Multiple Choice Love

Circle the response that shows LOVE in the scenarios below.

Your friend is sitting alone at recess.

- A. You ignore it and keep playing.
- B. You ask what's wrong and then listen when she's ready to talk.
- C. You tell your friend to stop acting so quiet and weird.

Your friend misses the shot and you lose the game.

- A. You say, "It's okay. We'll get 'em next time!"
- B. You say, "What was that? I can't believe you missed such an easy shot!"
- C. You start talking about what a bad player your friend is to the rest of the team.

The questions were easy! When it comes to real life friendships, the choices aren't always so clear. When others are laughing, you might join in. When others are picking on someone, you might feel like staying out of it. But good friends stand up for one another!

Ask God to help you honor others by standing up for friends that need your help this week.

DAY 3

Read Proverbs 17:17

Do you have loyal friends? A loyal friend is a steady, constant supporter, the kind of friend who is always there, ready to help. A loyal friend stands up for you and loves you at all times.

Do you have friends like that? Would your name make it onto a loyal friends list? If not, what is one thing you could do this week to show a friend that you care about them? How could you stand up for a friend and show that you are loyal?

AFLAAT!

Find some duct tape, tear off a piece and fold it in half long ways to make a bracelet. Write the letters AFLAAT—the first letters of words in the verse—across the front. If you wear a watch, place your bracelet on the same wrist by wrapping it around your arm and securing it in place with a smaller piece of tape. Each time you look to see what time it is, let your bracelet remind you that a friend loves at all times!

DAY 4

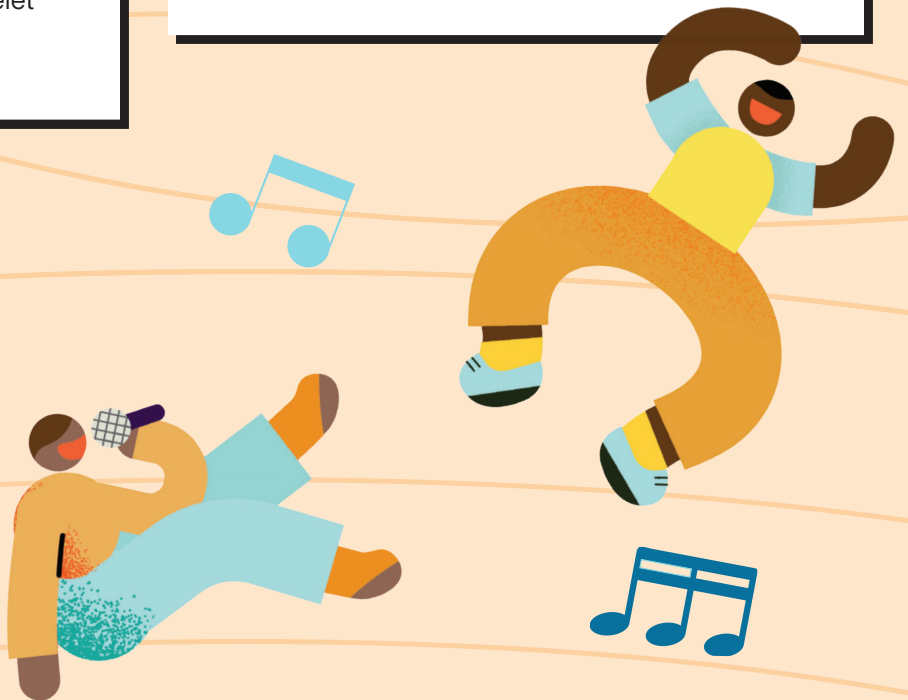
Read Galatians 6:2

Sometimes, we carry heavy loads that have nothing to do with backpacks or lunchboxes. When Paul wrote about carrying one another's heavy loads, he was talking about failures, temptations, or trials. When we mess up, when we're tempted to make an unwise choice or when we face something hard, it can feel like we're carrying a heavy burden. That's where friends come in! A true friend is one that's willing to stand up and help when those failures, temptations or trials come along.

Off To School

For the rest of this week, as you pick up your backpack to head out the door, stop and think of one friend who might need your help. As you travel to school, say a prayer for that friend by name. Ask God to help you be a good friend that stands up for others to help make things easier!

Friends stand up
for one another.



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DAY 1

Read Colossians 3:13

When a friend messes up, when they forget your birthday, or borrow something without asking, or say something mean without thinking, what do you do? Do you get mad? When they apologize, do you stay mad?

One big part of friendship is learning to forgive. Why? Because your friends aren't perfect. Neither are you. When a friend tells you they're sorry, forgiveness is always the best choice. Why? Because you've been forgiven too! God doesn't hold your mistakes against you. So if you're holding onto something against someone, choose forgiveness because friends forgive each other.

Don't Forget To Forgive

In the verse below, the following letters are missing! Fill in the blanks to complete the verse:

F O R G I V E

"Put up w.....thn..... an.....th.....
.....n..... an.....th.....
i..... y.....u a..... h.....ld.....ng s.....m.....
th.....n..... a.....a.....nst s.....m.....n.....
..... just as th.....
L.....d a.....e y.....u."

C.....l.....ss.....ans 3:13, NlrV

DAY 2

Read Psalm 133:1

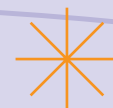
In friendship, it can be hard to keep the peace! Especially when you think you're right and the other person is wrong. Look back at today's verse. Who should live in peace? Unscramble the words below to find your answer.

.....'s
O D G E E O P P L

God wants you to live in peace with the people around you because the people around you were made by God! God loves them just as much as He loves you. And it makes God sad when we let our arguments or disagreements get in the way. It's okay to let a friend know that your feelings were hurt or that their choices were wrong, but it's NOT okay to stay mad and refuse to forgive. If we want to have strong friendships, we have to learn how to forgive and move on.

Find Some Peace

Who do you need to forgive? Stop and pray about it. Tell God why you're upset and ask for help to forgive, just as God's forgiven you. Then, when you're ready, let the other person know that you forgive them and do your best to move on so you can live in peace.





DAY 3

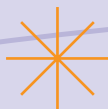
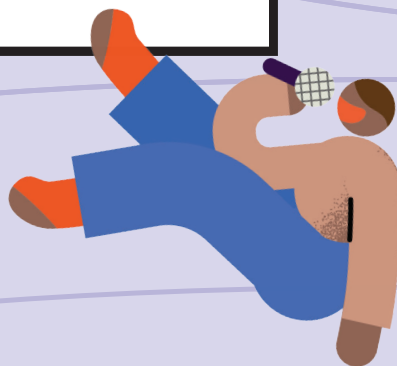
Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Did you catch the part at the end that says, love “does not keep track of other people’s wrongs”? What does that really mean anyway?

Let’s say you’re playing football and your friend steals the ball and runs for a touchdown. You are so mad! He did the same thing last week and the week before that. In fact, it seems like all he ever does is steal the ball from you. Suddenly, you’re not just mad about today. You’re mad about all the other times he’s stolen the ball. This is what it means to “keep track of wrongs” against someone else.

Keeping “track of wrongs” can be exhausting. And it’s not really fair because you mess up too. In fact, you mess up enough to fill up a list of your own. A good friend ditches that mess up list. A real friend chooses to forgive and move on.

Write the words “does not keep track of other people’s wrongs” with a dry erase marker on your mirror. This week, instead of holding on to your anger by keeping a record, ask God to help you be a friend who forgives!



DAY 4

Read Proverbs 17:9

Everybody messes up, including you. And everyone wants a friend who is willing to forgive. But it’s even better when you find a friend who forgives and moves on. A friend who doesn’t bring it up again or trash talk about you to someone else.

The good news is, God is the ultimate forgiver! God has forgiven you and will help you forgive others. Ask God to help you be the kind of friend who forgives and lets it go, even when it’s hard.



Friends forgive one another.

