

# Adventures with GOD!

## GOD GAVE ME FRIENDS (A.1.Spring.7)

Biblical Reference	1 Samuel 20
Key Verse	Proverbs 17:17
Key Concept	Friends are a gift from God and a way God shows us love.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explain the differences between a friend and a sibling</li><li>2. Describe how to be a good friend</li><li>3. Identify different aspects of the story of David and Jonathan</li></ol>

### Life Application

Even though we have friends, sometimes we forget that we need to show them our appreciation and love. It's important to express our care and love for those people we consider to be our friends. There are different ways we show our love. The children can choose a friend and make that person a little gift as a way of expressing their love and thankfulness for their friendship.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Introduction		5 minutes
Song	Illustrations	5 minutes
Activity	Pieces of yarn, tape, sketch	10 minutes
Bible Story	Puppets	10 minutes
Craft	Lentils, pieces of card stock, coloring crayons, sheets with happy faces	15 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

### Opening Prayer

Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle

**Prayer:** God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Introduction:** Who are our siblings? Who are our friends? What's the difference? (Let the children answer.) What is the name of one of your friends? Do we have friends here in our class?

**Song:** Find a song that talks about friendship, or love between friends. Sing it several times so the children can learn it. Make up actions to go along with the words.

**Activity:** Let the children make a mural, each child drawing a picture of himself/herself. Explain that in some parts of the world there are friendship ceremonies where people show their friendship by tying pieces of string/yarn together. Direct them to take a piece of yarn and tape it from their figure on the mural to that of the friend who is next to them. Explain that they will do this same thing next week between each other. Find other ways to show unity and friendship through simple activities.

**Bible story:** Using puppets, or illustrations, tell the story of David and Jonathan that is found in 1 Samuel 20. It is a story with a lot of action and it will serve as an example of what friendship looks like. Find more help for telling the story in the appendix. End your story time by praying that God would help us to love our friends.

**Craft:** Before class, make a bunch of different happy faces. Let the children color them, adding lentils (or another type of bean or pasta), or any sort of glitter or stickers to make a nice present. There are other ideas of gifts that you can make. For example, you could get small rocks and have them paint them, or make a picture with finger paint and write the words "Jesus loves you" on it. Another idea is to take pieces of colored paper and make a design on paper with them and write the Bible verse on it. Let the children tell you the name of a friend that they want to give their gift to.

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There are many different ideas you can do with the children in your class. Find one that works for you and for them.

On the following page the children can color the picture of David and Jonathan. Help them cut out the belt and the sword and glue it on David.

You will also find Craft option 3. Make an enlarged copy for each child and glue it to card stock. Punch out holes around the edge of the heart and then help them to weave yarn through the holes. As you work on these crafts talk with them about love, sharing, respect, joy, friendship.

## **Closing Prayer**

Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

**Prayer:** Thank you God for loving us, Thank you God for sending your son Jesus into the world.

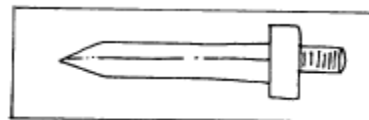
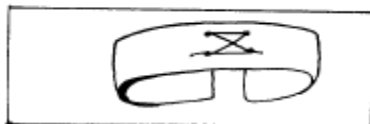
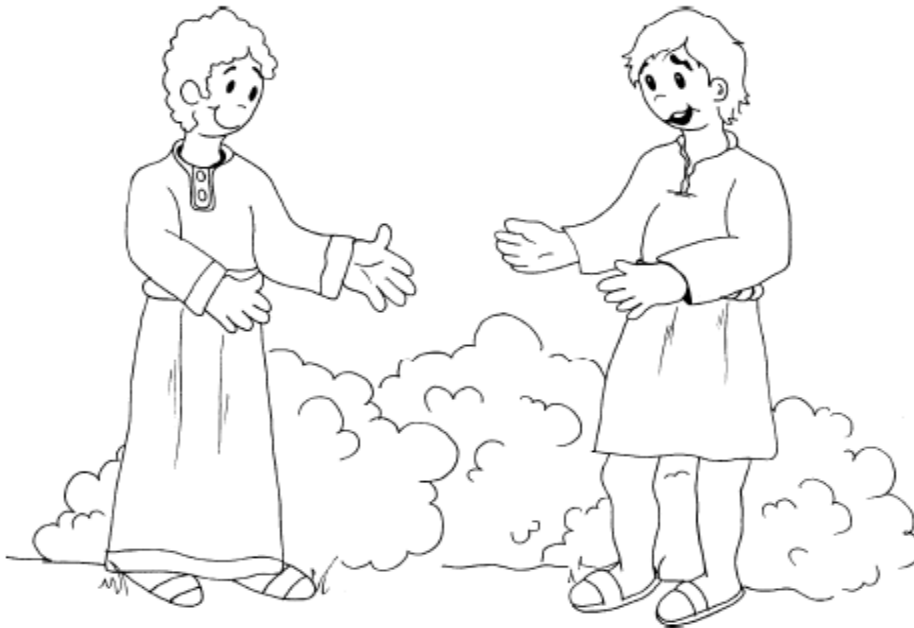
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## CRAFT 1

### David finds a friend

David was a young man who wanted to serve God. He obeyed his father and watched over the family sheep. God helped him to kill the giant Goliath with just a small stone. God gave him a very special friend named Jonathan. David and Jonathan loved each other and became very good friends. One day Jonathan gave his sword to David. He also gave him his belt. That's how he showed his care for his friend.

God is content when we are good friends and show our love in practical ways. How can you show your friends that you care about them?



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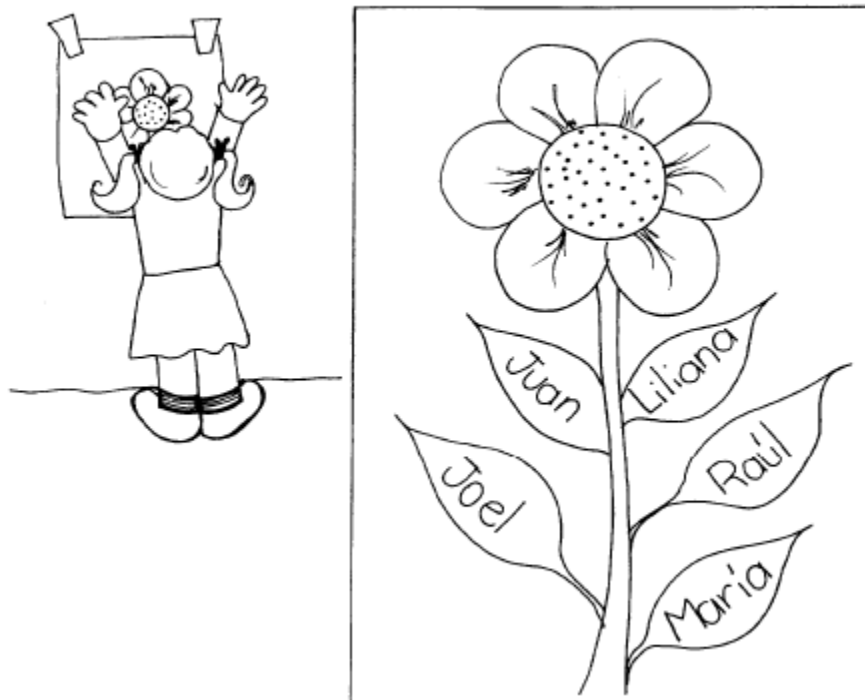
## CRAFT 2

### Flower of friendship

Materials: green paper, scissors, white paper, crayons, glue, pencils, tissue paper

Instructions:

1. Give each child a cut out stem and leaves (use the example of the illustration below – making it bigger)
2. Cut out tissue paper into 2 x 2 cm squares. The children can scrunch up the paper or wrap it around the tip of a pencil and then glue it to the white paper to make flower petals.
3. Help them to write the names of their friends on the leaves. Write the words, “Flower of friendship” on the white paper.
4. If possible write the Bible verse for today on the white paper as well.



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CRAFT 3

Friends love at all times!

