

Adventures with GOD!

GOD GAVE ME FRIENDS (A.1.Spring.8)

Biblical Reference	2 Samuel 9:1-13
Key Verse	Proverbs 18:24
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">1. Name a friend and something that they like about him or her2. Describe the things that we do to show our love for our friends3. Say the Bible verse by memory

Life Application

This week the children will have the opportunity to celebrate friendship with a special ceremony/celebration that will serve as a symbol of friendship. Sometimes friendship requires sacrifice like it did for Jonathan in his friendship with David. Invite them to think of ways that they can show their love and what ways they can practically show that love through sacrifice (sharing, giving a toy to a friend, not fighting, not pushing, etc.)

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Room set-up	balloons, streamers, etc.	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Introduction	Drawings/images of children	5 minutes
Bible story	Illustrations, bibles	10 minutes
Prayer		5 minutes
Celebration of friendship	Yarn, snack, games	25 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Note: Today is special because we are going to celebrate the fact that God has given us friends. Friends are very important people in our lives. Today we want to celebrate it in a way they will remember.

Room set-up: If it's possible decorate the room like you would for a party with balloons, streamers, etc. When the children arrive they will see the decorations and know that something special is going to happen.

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: Using the mural from last week you can talk about friendship. Ask them the name of one of their friends and something that they like about their friend. Remind them about the yarn/string that they used to join the figures together on the mural last week and explain that today they are going to have a friendship celebration.

Bible story: Today you will tell the story of Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son (David's good friend). Try to find a book or a story Bible or some other illustrations that you can use to tell the story, or have the children help you act it out. Tell the story in easy to understand words, using what is in the appendix as a guide.

Celebration of Friendship: It's time to share a snack together and then invite them to play some games (something that requires them to play together like follow the leader, or three-legged raise, or Simon says). After they have eaten and played you can begin the ceremony of uniting everyone together by tying string or yarn around their wrists and attaching the other end to the child next to them. Remind them to stand or sit still as they are connected via the string and offer up a prayer to God thanking God for friends. How important are friends, as they help us feel loved and not alone; they help us feel secure and happy. At the end cut the string that connects them, leaving them a bracelet on their wrist that is a reminder of the special friends in their class. Finish your time by singing together or working on the craft in the following pages.

Closing Payer: 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

My friendship book

Materials: white paper, crayons, scissors, stapler

Instructions:

1. Use the pattern below to make a booklet for each child.
2. Make a booklet for each child by folding over a few pages of white paper and stapling them in the middle.
3. Then give each child a booklet and let them draw and color pictures of their friends, explaining what they like about their friends and what they like to do together. Ask them to talk about how they show their love to their friends.
4. Help them to write the Bible verse on the back of the booklet.

