

# City SG - July 7-8, 2018

**Bible Story:** You've Got a Friend in Me (Philip and Nathanael) • *John 1:43-51*

**Bottom Line:** Find friends who help you trust Jesus.

**Memory Verse:** "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." *Philippians 1:6, NIV*

## 1. Follow the Friend

**What You Need:** Blindfolds (8 per bin) , painter's tape square (campus supplies)

### **What You Do:**

- Choose one of your few to be the "Leader." (Rotate leaders after each round so others have a chance as well.)
- Encourage your group to line up behind the Leader and give each of them a blindfold.
- After your few are blindfolded, instruct them to put their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. This will help guide them to know where to go.
- Instruct your Leader to walk the group to one of the corners of the painter's tape square.
- Explain to your group that they will be attempting to follow the Leader without stepping off the line she is walking on.
- Allow the Leader to begin and walk in whichever direction she chooses.
- As your group makes their way around, encourage and cheer them on! Let them know if they are getting close to falling off the line.
- After the first Leader has completed her turn, choose another leader. Allow them to decide which corner to begin from.

### **What You Say:**

"Wow! That would have been so much more difficult if our leader would have led us down the wrong path. How do you think Philip led Nathaniel down the right path in our story today? (*This may be a tricky question for them to answer. Allow time for them to think it through.*) Just like it was important for Philip to be a friend Nathaniel could trust, it's important to find friends who help you trust Jesus. ***[Make It Personal] (Share a personal story about a friend who helps you trust Jesus and why this is so important to you. It could be a mentor or a peer accountability partner. Share about the ways in which this friend encourages you to trust Jesus. Be sure to keep what you share age-appropriate.)*** Out of all of the important things I like to keep track of, like my car keys or my favorite sunglasses, I know that the most important thing is to ***[Bottom Line]*** find friends who help you trust Jesus."

## **2. Friendship Jesus**

**What You Need:** Bracelet kit (1 per child)

**What You Do:**

- Review Philippians 1:16 together.
- Hand out the kit with cord and beads to each kid.
- Encourage your few to string the beads onto their cord
- Help them tie both ends of their yarn on either side of their beads so they don't slide around.
- Help them tie their bracelets onto their wrists.
- Review Philippians 1:16 together again as you hold the wrist your bracelet is on high in the air.

**What You Say:**

"You know, our verse talks about how God is going to complete the good work He began in us. I think that good friends can help us do the good work God has given us too—things like praying for us, encouraging us and being the kinds of friends Jesus wants us to be. This week, I want these bracelets to remind you to be thankful for the friends you have in Jesus. But I also want you to be praying for each of your friends—that they may grow to love Jesus as well. **[Bottom Line] Find friends who help you trust Jesus.**"

## **3. Search and Find**

**What You Need:** "Search and Find" Activity Cards (10 per bin, reuse each service)

**What You Do:**

- Pass out a piece of an Activity Card to each kid. Make sure each picture you pass to a kid also has a match you have given to another kid. (If you have an odd number of kids, you can play as well.)
- Instruct the kids to hold the pictures with the blank side facing out, so others can't see what they have.
- Explain that you will be counting to five. By the time you reach five, they must find a partner to stand across from.
- After each kid is standing across from a partner, count to three, and allow kids to flip over their papers.
- If they are standing across from a partner with the same picture they have, they can step aside out of the game.
- If their pictures do not match, they must flip their pictures back over and continue playing until they find their match.
- After all kids have found their matches, encourage them to work together in their pairs to create a story of what the two friends on the paper are doing.
- Allow them to share the stories they have created with the group.

**What You Say:**

"I absolutely loved the stories you created about good friends. It's always nice to have a friend you can count on. What are some examples of how you can be a friend this week? *(Allow time for kids to share.)* Those are all very good ideas! There are so many good things to be on the lookout for. But the most important thing I look for is to **[Bottom Line] find friends who help you trust Jesus.** Those are the friends who will hopefully be treating others like they want to be treated, because they want to be like Jesus!"

#### 4. My Friend Is . . .

##### What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Ask the kids to think of single words that describe a friend such as: nice, happy, fun, and so on.
- Begin a word-repetition game by saying, “My friend is,” and then add a word that describes a friend.
- Ask the next person to repeat what you said but add another word to the end of the sentence.
- Continue around the circle, letting each child add a new word until someone forgets one of the words. Then start over.
- Here are some words to suggest if kids run out of ideas:

|       |         |       |       |        |
|-------|---------|-------|-------|--------|
| happy | fun     | smart | short | strong |
| cute  | helpful | silly | kind  | wise   |
| nice  | tall    | rich  | old   | good   |

##### What You Say:

“Friends come in all shapes and sizes: tall, short, big, and small. Friends make us happy and help us when we feel sad or lonely. **[Transition]** Today we heard about the very best thing a friend can do; help us trust Jesus!”

#### 5. Prayer

##### What You Do:

- Ask your few if they think it’s easy or difficult to find friends who trust Jesus.
- If they think it’s easy, where do they find these good friends?
- If they find it difficult, ask how they can be encouraging their friends to love Jesus.
- Ask kids to share some ideas of what friends who trust Jesus do. Suggest some examples like praying together when a friend is having a tough time, doing GodTimes and other devotionals together, being kind and loving like Jesus is, and inviting friends to church if they don’t already go to church.

##### What You Say:

“Dear God, I thank You so much for the friend we have in Jesus! We pray that we are able to find friends who trust You AND that we would help all of our friends grow to trust You too. Help us remember as we walk through our days that when we **[Bottom Line]** find friends who help you trust Jesus, we find friends who help bring You glory! In Jesus’ name, amen!”