

Alley Rundown - November 9-10, 2019

Bible Story: You've Got a Friend (David and Jonathan) • 1 Samuel 18:1-9; 19:1-7; 20:1-42

Bottom Line: Honor others by putting them first.

Key Question: What are the best ways to honor your friends?

Memory Verse: Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10 NIV)

"Hey everyone! So good to see you here today! Let's start off today with a little exercise. I'll say a name, and you call out his or her famous friend. Like, for example, if I said 'Buzz Lightyear,' you would say . . ."

Kids should respond with "Woody."

"Exactly. Woody from *Toy Story*. Two famous friends. Alright, let's give it a try . . . and be forewarned, some of these are tricky."

CG: Optional Slides of Each Character

"I say Bert. You say _____ (*Ernie*)."

"I say Mario. You say _____ (*Luigi*)."

"I say Han Solo. You say _____ (*Chewbacca*)."

"I say Calvin. You say _____ (*Hobbes*)."

"I say Robin. You say _____ (*Batman*)."

"I say Phineas. You say _____ (*Ferb*)."

"I say Wallace. You say _____ (*Grommit*)."

"I say Watson. You say _____ (*Sherlock Holmes*)."

"Awesome job. Alright, I have one more for you. I say David. You say _____. What do you think? Certainly not Goliath. That was last week, and I don't think they were really friends. Anybody know the answer?"

If someone yells out the answer, acknowledge it.

"Have you ever noticed that in a lot of these famous friends we just named, there always seems to be one that is the star and the other seems to be the 'sidekick'? We tend to think of one first and then remember the other second. Take Batman and Robin. Sure, Robin fights a lot of crime, but we usually focus on Batman and his accomplishments, right?"

"Now obviously Batman and Robin and all of these characters live in fictional worlds, but have you ever thought about this in real life? Are there times when you can help your friend get credit or honor, and by doing so, it would mean that you . . . well, DON'T? Would you do it?"

That's a tough question! And when we have tough questions like this, the first place we should turn is the Bible. In the Bible we find people who had relationships with God and wrote down what they experienced. They can help us understand the wise choice when it comes to questions like this."

"And today we pick up where we left off last week after David's victory over Goliath. Now, something important to know. At this point in his life, David had already been anointed as the next king of Israel. God had chosen him to be the next king, but Saul was still the *actual* king. But check out how this story starts."

“(Read directly from 1 Samuel 18:1b, NIV) ‘Jonathan and David became close friends. Jonathan loved David just as he loved himself.’ Does anyone know what is so strange about that statement?” (Pause for response.)

“Does anyone know who Jonathan is? (Pause for response.) He’s King Saul’s son. NOW why is this such a strange statement that Jonathan would be friends with David? Because Jonathan *should* be next in line to be king and instead David is going to be! That could cause some problems! Let’s take a look at our episode this week, to find out what happens!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 16:00)

“You know, there were definitely times when Jonathan could have changed his mind if he wanted to. Think about it—nobody would have known if he had just let Saul kill David. It wouldn’t have been his fault. It would have been Saul’s! And then, maybe all of this (*pick up props from throne*) and even this (*sit down on throne*) could have been his again. But he was faithful to David to the end. He put him above himself, even when it cost him.”

“It’s easy to honor your friends when it means you are going to experience it as well, like when you invite your friend to a concert or game. You’re still getting to go to the concert or game, right? You’re just also giving your friend a chance to go as well, which is a pretty cool thing. But what about the times where honoring somebody else means you might miss out? Or celebrating somebody else’s success might come at a cost to you?”

“For Jonathan, there was one throne, and if David was going to get that throne, it would mean that he wouldn’t. In band, there’s only one first chair. Sometimes it is clear that somebody else is more deserving of that seat and deserves to be honored. But that means you have to move down. On your sports team there may be only one starting position open and you may find someone starting ahead of you which means you have to sit on the bench for a while.”

“These are not easy moments, but sacrificing our own honor so that others can be honored never is. But it makes us like Jesus. Jesus had all of the honor and glory you could ever imagine, but He gave it up so that He could come to earth and be a servant. He traded his honor for shame, and now our shame can be traded for honor. Now THAT is self-sacrifice.”

“Today as you go to groups, think about this question.

CG: Key Question Slide

“What are the best ways to honor your friends? Think about the people in your life. How can you show honor to your friends? How can you put them first even when it means you might be second or even last? You’ll talk more about this with your Small Group, but before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for all of our friends and for sending us the best friend ever, Jesus. Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering time and worship experience, then dismiss kids to Small Group.

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 3:00)

CG: Worship Experience Video (Runtime: 5:00)

NOTE: Students will stand and sing along to “Jesus, What a Friend” by Kids on the Move. Be an active participant in this time with your students.