

CITY LG – September 2- 4, 2023

Today's Bible Story: It Takes Two (Two People Are Better than One) • *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*

Today's Bottom Line: Choose your friends carefully.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.*
Proverbs 17:17 (NirV)

WORSHIP

We are Royals

Hands Toward Heaven

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everybody! It's great to see you! This month we're talking about friendship. Friendship is such an amazing gift that God has given us! Raise your hand if you're thankful for your friends. *(Raise your hand.)* Raise your hand if you want to BE a good friend. *(Raise your hand.)* That's so great!

Here's what we mean when we talk about friendship.

SLIDE: Virtue

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

SLIDE: Theme

I'm so thankful that God has given us friends to share life with. Friends add harmony to our lives, so we don't just have to handle all of life's ups and downs by ourselves. Let's talk in our groups about friendship. I'm going to give you some time to discuss this question as a group....

Who is your best friend and what qualities do they have that make them a good friend? *(walk around and listen to kids' answer is their groups. Bring them back together in a few minutes when most groups are done).*

MUSIC: play the spotify playlist quietly in the background

Our story today comes from the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* Ecclesiastes was written by someone called 'the Teacher,' who many people believe was King Solomon. We know that Solomon asked God for wisdom, and God gave it to him. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon shared what he had learned about life. And he had something important to say about friendship.

Let's check it out...

Bible Story Video (11:54)

Solomon had some really amazing wisdom from God! He understood just how important our friendships can be. He understood that God has given us people who can support us, care for us, and help us follow God each and every day.

God made us to live in friendship with other people. And so, it's important that we choose friends who will be there for us, just like we'll be there for them.

I hope you'll remember how important it is to do this. Let's stand up and check out our bottom line

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Choose your friends carefully.

Jesus showed how important friends are when He chose the 12 disciples to be His closest friends and followers. If Jesus needed friendship, then we definitely do, too!

So let's choose the kind of friends who will stand up for us and help us. Let's choose friends who act with kindness. Let's choose friends who make wise decisions.

I know you might not think too much about choosing your friends at your age, because mostly you just hang out with whoever you see at school or in your neighborhood. But this will become more and more important as you continue to grow. Just remember that God can help you **choose your friends carefully**. And remember to BE a good friend to the people in your life, too!

Our memory verse for this month is Proverbs 17:17.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes. (Proverbs 17:17, NIRV)

It's been great to hang out with you, my friends! Soon we will head to Small Group and talk some more about choosing your friends carefully. Let's pray...

SLIDE: Theme

Dear God, thank You so much for the wisdom You gave Solomon. Thank You for giving us friends who can encourage us as we follow You and live Your way each day. Help us remember to make the wise choice, and to choose our friends carefully. And please show us how we can be wise friends for the people in our lives, too. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING:

Where has our offering money been going this summer? Yep, to families in Kenya! They are still in need of food, so we are going to continue raising money for these families until the end of the year. They are experiencing a food shortage because of an on-going drought. We are collecting money for food baskets for the families who live in Turkana. If you have any offering, you can bring it up now while we watch this video of Turkana families receiving baskets.

Turkana video #2