

CITY LG – September 9-11, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Friends Forever (David and Mephibosheth) • 1 Samuel 19-20; 2 Samuel 9

Today's Bottom Line: Friends keep their promises.

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, friends! I'm so pumped that you're here today! Today, and all month long, we're talking about one of my favorite things: FRIENDSHIP!

SLIDE: Virtue

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

SLIDE: Theme

God created us to be friends with each other and to show each other that we care. On the count of three, can you say the name of one of your friends out loud? One, two, three. *(Pause for response.)* That's so great! Now think about what that friend does for you that lets you know that they care. *(Pause.)* Aren't you so thankful for your friend? Aren't you so thankful for friendship? With God's help, we can BE good friends who show others that we care.

Before we do anything else, I want to teach you a fun game called 'Friendly Face-Off.'

Pick up the beach ball.

I'll walk around the room, and for each round, I'll choose two different small groups to have a 'Friendly Face-Off.' We'll play part of a song, and the first team to have someone come up to me, tap the beach ball, and tell me what MOVIE the song is from, wins that round!

This is a 'Friendly Face-Off' because you're playing as a team with your friends AND, even though one team wins the round, both teams will then cheer like crazy for each other!

Are you ready? *(Pause.)* Okay, let's go! First up, [leader's name]'s group versus [leader's name]'s group.

Stand between the two small groups and hold the beach ball in front of you. Play the first song. When a kid comes up and hits the ball, let them answer.

After each round, get the two groups to cheer for each other. Make a big deal of this, since it's the "Friendly Face-Off." Then find two new groups to play.

AUDIO: Songs for the game—one for each round

Wow! You all really know your movie tunes! And that last one is the perfect song for friendship, isn't it?

Today, we're looking at an amazing story of friendship that we can find in the Bible (*hold up Bible*), in the books of first and second Samuel. This story is about a man named David. Check it out...

VIDEO: Bible Story (10:47)

Jonathan and David were great friends who made promises to each other. And they didn't just MAKE those promises. They KEPT their promises!

David found Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, all those years later, because he wanted to show kindness to Jonathan's family like he said he would.

We need to make sure that we keep our promises to our friends, like Jonathan and David did for each other. Let's stand up and remember . . .

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Friends keep their promises.

Can you say that with me?

Friends keep their promises.

And remember, our God is the very best example of a promise keeper! God promised to send us a Savior. And when the time was right, God sent Jesus for us.

When we keep our promises to our friends, we build trust in our friendships. That's the kind of thing that makes a friendship grow. And it's a great way to treat others the way you want to be treated. After all, doesn't it feel good when someone keeps a promise to you? We should keep our word to our friends to show them how much we care.

Let's say our memory verse together, Proverbs 17:17."

SLIDE: Memory Verse

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

Great job! That's what true friendship is about—being there for our friends, no matter what. In small group today we will talk about how we can keep our promises to our friends!

Let's pray...

"Dear God, thank You for the story of David and Jonathan. We can see how David and Jonathan looked out for each other and kept their promises to each other. Please help us keep our promises like they did. Show us how we can be true to our word and do what we've said we'll do. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING:

Until the end of 2023, our offering money will go to families in Kenya. As you can see in these pictures, this is an area in Kenya called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

SLIDES: Kenya 1-4

We are working with an organization called Missions of Hope. Our money will help them make food baskets to bring the families who live in Turkana. The food baskets will be such a blessing to the children and families in this community. If you have any offering you can bring it up now.