

CITY SG – 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)

1. We Can Help!

Bible Story Review

What You Need: JENGA® sets (one per bin) and Bible

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and read it out loud to your group.
- Encourage the kids to work together to play Jenga.
- If a kid pulls a piece and all the blocks fall down, instruct all of the other kids in your small group to shout, "We can help!"
- Direct the kids to build it back up.
- Invite the kids to continue play.
- Start the conversation below.
- Say, "You all did a great job of playing our game! When you helped each other set the blocks back up, it was so much easier than if one person did it alone. God made us to live in community and have friends! These blocks might be a small example, but when we live our lives helping and encouraging others, it can really make a big difference."

2. Friend Chain

Application Activity

Non-Reader Option

What You Need: Colored paper to cut into strips (5 per kid), markers, scissors, and tape

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of colored paper and have them cut it into 5 strips.
- (if you want to give them the choice to have different color strips in their chain, have them put the strips into the middle of the group and they can each pick different colors.)
- Set out the markers and tape.
- Invite the kids to write down the name of a person who is a good friend on each strip.
 - Instruct the kids to think of classmates, neighbors, family friends, siblings, family members, etc.
 - **If your group has trouble writing/reading, have them draw a picture of each friend instead of writing their name.**
- Show the kids how to tape the strips of construction paper in loops, through each other, creating a paper prayer chain with all of their strips.
- Have each child name one of the friends they wrote down and explain why that person is a good friend.
- Encourage the kids to hang this at home and pray for the names on their paper chain, thanking God for the good friends in our lives.
- Say, "Even Jesus showed us how important it is to have friends when He chose His twelve disciples. If Jesus needed friends in His life, then we do, too!"

3. All in Motion

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
- Divide your group into smaller groups.
- Assign each group a different part of the verse.
- Invite each group to create hand motions that correspond to their part of the verse.
 - For example:
 - “A friend (*Hook elbows with a neighbor.*)
 - loves (*Place hands to heart.*)
 - at all times. (*Point to a pretend watch on your wrist.*)
 - They are there (*Point down.*)
 - to help (*arms outstretched*)
 - when trouble comes.” (*Shiver, as if scared.*)
 - Proverbs 17:17 (*Open hands like a book.*)
- Going through the verse in order, invite each group to share their hand motions.
- Instruct the kids to repeat the memory verse with the motions a few times.
- Say, “It’s important to **choose your friends carefully** and pick those who encourage you, help you, and love like Jesus. And the best way to GET a good friend is to BE a good friend!”

4. Pray

- “God, thank You so much for the wonderful friends who we get to know. Please help our friends continue to grow in their relationship with You. Help us make the right choices so we can also be good friends to others and help us **choose your friends carefully**. Most of all, thank You for giving us Jesus who is the best friend of all. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”