

Year 2

God is Love 5 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will:

- Recognize the importance of having friends, and being a friend, through good and bad times
- Know the definition of friendliness
- Know how to welcome newcomers
- Understand that we help our friends
- Understand that if friends have disagreements they can forgive one another and restore the friendship
- Know that we can have a relationship with God by asking Jesus to be our friend

Related classroom topics for Social Studies:

Friendship; Making friends with people of different cultures and traditions; Good manners; Making friends with people of all ages

Link between “God is Love” and classroom topics:

As we come to know God, we know that He loves us. We can share His love with others through friendship.

Values

Compassion; Cultural understanding; Sense of family and community; kindness, forgiveness

God is Love

Week 1

Jesus is a special friend of children

Bible references

Mark 10:13-16 Jesus, a special friend of children.

Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:5 I will never leave you.

John 15:12-14 Love one another; You are my friends if you do what I command.

Luke 18:17 Whoever does not receive the kingdom of heaven as a little child will not enter it.

Introduction

Discuss 'best friends':

What things do you do together?

What things do you like about your best friend?

Jesus wants to be our best friend too. He especially wants to be friends with children.

Bible Lesson: Jesus said "Let the children come."

The children were happy. Jesus had come to their town. They wanted to see Jesus.

"Hurry, Mum," said the children. "We want to see Jesus. Please take us to see Him."

The Mums took their children to see Jesus. There was a big crowd.

The children wanted to go to the front of the crowd.

"Get back! Get back!" said the friends of Jesus. "There are grown ups here who want to be at the front!"

"No!" said Jesus. "I want the children here. Bring them to me."

The Mums brought the children to Jesus.

Jesus sat the children on His knee.

"I love children," He said. "Children are very special. If grown ups want to be my friends, then they must be like these children."

Children can love Jesus with a special love. Jesus wants you to love Him. He loves you with a special love too.

Discussion

How do we know that Jesus is a person?

What kind of person is He?

What does it mean to trust a friend?

Which friend can we trust the most?

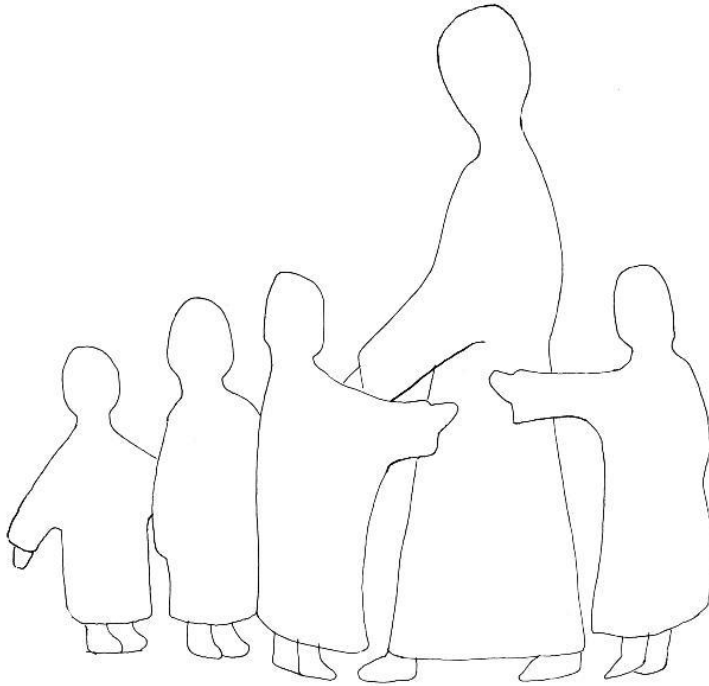
How do we ask Jesus to be our friend?

Activity 1

Make a card for Jesus. Think of something you would like to tell Jesus. Write it on the card. Decorate the card and place it in a special place at home, where you can see it every day.

Activity 2

Finish the following drawing. (The teacher could draw this on to a large sheet of paper and the children can copy it, then fill in the details of Jesus and the children.)



God is Love

Week 2

Jesus showed his friends that He loved them.

Bible references

Luke 10:38-42 Mary and Martha

John 11 Jesus helped His friends, Mary and Martha and Lazarus.

Proverbs 18:24 Jesus is a friend who is closer than a brother.

Discussion

How can you be a good friend to someone?

Friends are not ALWAYS good to one another. Sometimes friends can make each other sad. However, there is one friend who is ALWAYS a good friend. That is Jesus.

Here is a true story which shows how much Jesus loves and cares about His friends.

Bible Lesson: Special help for special friends

Jesus had three good friends called Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Mary and Martha were sisters and Lazarus was their brother. They did not follow Jesus everywhere as the twelve disciples did. They lived in a house in Bethany, and Jesus would often visit them.

When Jesus came to visit, one of the sisters, Martha loved to cook for him and get the house tidy. The other sister, Mary, would love to sit and listen to Jesus teach about God. One day Jesus had to say to Martha, that although everything she was doing was good, he actually would rather that she spent less time on the preparations and to come and sit down with Mary. That's what good friends do: they spend time together.

One day, while Jesus was away on a trip, Lazarus became very sick. Mary and Martha wished that Jesus was there to help Lazarus. They believed that Jesus could heal their brother, so they sent a message to Jesus. The message said, "Jesus, please come and help us. Lazarus is sick."

Jesus did not come straight away. He planned to heal Lazarus in a special way. Lazarus became worse, and died. Mary and Martha were very sad. 'If only Jesus could have got here sooner,' they thought.

The body of Lazarus was wrapped in white bandages and buried in a cave called a tomb. After a few days Jesus and his disciples arrived. Mary and Martha were crying. Jesus knew how sad they felt. He cried with them.

"If only you could have been here sooner," they said to Jesus, "Lazarus would not have died." Mary and Martha knew that Jesus had power to heal people. They had seen Him heal people before. However, they did not know that Jesus could do another special miracle.

"Don't worry," said Jesus. "Lazarus will live again."

Jesus went to the place where Lazarus was buried. It was a cave with a big stone in front of the entrance.

"Roll away the stone," said Jesus.

Jesus prayed to His Heavenly Father, and then said, "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus came out of the grave wrapped from head to foot in white bandages. Quickly they took off the bandages. Lazarus was alive again!



Discussion

Jesus loved his three friends very much. He felt sad when Mary and Martha were sad. He wanted to help them in a special way. Jesus knows when we are sad too, and wants to help us.

A good friend feels sad when you are sad, and wants to help. What else does a good friend do?

Ask the children for their ideas and write their ideas on a big sheet of paper for all to see.

EXAMPLE:

What is a friend?

A friend is...

- someone to have fun with
- someone you can share with
- someone you spend time with

God is Love

Week 3

Making friends and keeping friends

Bible references

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times.

Hebrews 13:2 Remember to welcome strangers in your homes. There were some who did that and welcomed angels without knowing it.

Introduction

Story: Newcomer

“Come on everyone,” said Mum. “Hurry up and get ready or we’ll be late for church.”

“OK Mum,” called back Miriam and John.

The family arrived at church.

“Hey look John,” said Miriam. “I haven’t seen that girl before. I wonder if she’ll be in my Sunday school class. Look at her clothes. She’s not exactly dressed in her best clothes like we are.”

“You girls worry too much about your clothes,” said John. “It doesn’t matter if she’s not all dressed up. Maybe she hasn’t got any best clothes.”

“You’re right John. Come on, let’s go over and say hello to her.”

The two children went over to the new girl.

“Hi, I’m Miriam”. “It’s good to have you along today. What’s your name?”

“Naomi,” said the newcomer.

“Hi Naomi. When it’s time for the Sunday school class, just come with me and I’ll show you where to go. I hope you can be in my class. I’ll introduce you to my friends,” said Miriam.

“Thanks Miriam. That will be really great.”

Discussion

What did Miriam think about the new girl at the start?

Why do you think she changed the way she was thinking?

How did Miriam show friendliness to the new girl?

Was the new girl happy about this?

Who has been a newcomer?

How does it feel to be a newcomer?

How could you show friendliness to a newcomer to our school?

What is friendliness?

- Friendliness keeps you and others from feeling lonely or left out.
- It helps people feel that they belong.

How do we show friendliness?

- Be kind to people
- Don't be afraid to make new people feel welcome. Tell them about yourself.
- Look at people when you are talking to them and smile.

What is a true friend?

Someone who:

- Looks out for their friend
- Doesn't do mean things to their friend
- Does not say mean things about their friend
- Shares with their friend
- Forgives their friend if there is a disagreement

Act it out:

Ask the children to use actions or faces to show how they would feel if:

- Your friend wins a prize for a race (happy; excited)
- A relative of your friend dies or is very sick (sad)
- Your friend gets hurt while playing (bend over to help)

Bible lesson: A friend loves at all times

Proverbs 17:17

What does this Bible verse mean? When might it be hard to love a friend?

Activity

Write this motto in large colourful lettering and decorate it:

"A friend loves at all times". Proverbs 17:17

God is Love

Week 4

Friends help each other

Bible references:

1 Samuel 18:1-4; 1 Samuel 19:1-7; 1 Samuel 20:1-42 The story of the friendship between David and Jonathan

Bible Lesson: Jonathan's arrows

Do you remember the story of David the shepherd boy? He killed Goliath the giant. Everyone in Israel loved David. He was very famous.

David lived at the palace of King Saul. He played music on his little harp to make the king happy. But King Saul became very jealous of David. He was not happy that David was more popular with the people than he was. Several times he tried to kill David, but God protected him.

King Saul had a son named Jonathan. Jonathan and David were about the same age and were best friends.

One day King Saul became very angry with David. David had to run away and hide. He told Jonathan that he was running away.

"Don't worry," said Jonathan, "I will make a plan to help you."

Jonathan made a plan. He was very good at shooting arrows, so he decided that he would use his arrows as a sign to show David when it was safe to come back to the palace.

Jonathan said to David, "You hide in the field. In three days I will come to the field with a little servant boy. I will shoot some arrows from my bow and tell the servant boy to go and get them. If I shoot the arrows this side of you, then you will know that my father is no longer angry and it is safe to come back to the palace. But if I shoot the arrows on the other side of you, then you will know it is not safe to come back".

After three days Jonathan and the servant boy went to the field where David was hiding. He shot the arrows far beyond David and sent the boy to get them. What did this mean? It meant that King David was still angry and it was not safe to come back.

David came out of his hiding place for a little while to talk to Jonathan. They had to say good-bye to each other. David had to leave the palace and continue hiding from King Saul. But the two friends promised that they would always be best friends.

When King Saul died, David became king of Israel.

Discussion:

Question: How do you think David and Jonathan became good friends?

Answer: Possibly Jonathan made David feel welcome when he first came to live in the palace. Everything would have been so different for David, after being a shepherd boy.

Question: What things did Jonathan share with David?

Answer: David, being a shepherd boy, was very poor, whereas Jonathan, the son of a king, was very rich. 1 Samuel 18:4 tells us that Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

Activity 1

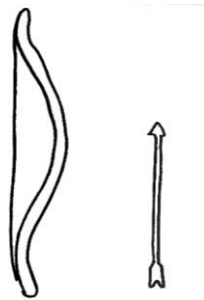
Talk to the person next to you:

What things have you shared with a friend?

Tell the person next to you about a time when you helped your friend.

Activity 2

Draw a picture of Jonathan with his bow and arrow.



God is Love

Week 5

God wants to be friends with us.

Bible references:

John 15:13-15 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

John 4:1-26 The woman at the well

Bible Lesson 1: Twelve special friends

Jesus had twelve special friends. They traveled everywhere with Jesus. They saw him do miracles and heard him teach people about God. They didn't imagine that Jesus would ever leave them.

But one day Jesus called his friends together and told them this:

I have to go away. You are my friends, and I am going to give my life for you my friends. (Jesus was talking about the time when he would die on the cross, although the friends did not understand this just yet.)

Jesus said, "If you want to be my friends, then you must do what I have told you to do."

Jesus has told us what to do in the Bible. To be his friends then we must believe in him and follow him. Jesus wants to be a friend of everyone.

Discussion

Does Jesus want to be friends with everyone in the whole world?

Does Jesus want to be friends with people from all countries?

(Yes, God wants everyone to be his friend.)

Bible Lesson 2: The woman at the well

Here is a story from the Bible that shows us that Jesus showed love and kindness to people from all countries.

Jesus and his helpers were on a long journey. They were on their way home through another country. Soon Jesus came to a place with a well. A well is a place where people got water in Bible times. They didn't have taps in their houses back then. They had to carry a jar to the well, fill it up and take it back home.

Jesus' friends went to buy food in the town while Jesus sat by the well. Soon a woman came to the well to get water.

Jesus asked her, "Please, will you give me a drink of water?"

The lady was surprised.

“Why are you asking me for a drink?” she said. “Usually, people from your country do not speak to people from my country!”

Jesus said to her, “If you knew who I was, you would be asking me for a drink. The water I have to give is living water that comes from God.”

Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit.

The woman was surprised, but Jesus went on to explain that he had come to the world to show people how they could be forgiven for the wrong things they have done, and he told the woman about many wrong things she had done, even though he had never met her before.

The woman was amazed. She knew that Jesus was the Son of God. She wanted to have the living water that Jesus could give her. She was so excited that she left her water jar and ran off to tell the other women.

To be God’s friend, then we have to ask Jesus to be the leader in our life. Like the woman at the well, we have to be willing to ask God for the Living Water. Having the Living Water is having Jesus in our life. Everyone can have it, but we first have to ask Jesus to forgive us for the wrong things we have done, just like the woman at the well.



Activity

Make a poster and decorate the letters: Jesus is a friend