

Friends: Teacher's topic guide

God is Love Year 2

Spiritual Awareness: Jesus is a faithful friend

To be a good friend to someone means treating that person the way you would like to be treated yourself. This involves displaying the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. It means putting your friend first instead of yourself first. It means going the extra mile. Being patient with a friend may mean not giving up on them when they do something wrong. It means being willing to forgive and forget, and start again.

A perfect friend is one who knows the worst about you but loves you just the same. Jesus is the perfect friend.

Our response to 'God is Loving, Patient and Kind'

Because God is loving, patient and kind, I will...

- try to be patient with others
- try to be patient with myself
- remember that God will answer my prayers in His time
- finish jobs properly and not take short-cuts
- persevere and not give up when things get difficult
- show self-control
- show kindness and gentleness to others
- learn to listen
- learn to wait
- learn to let others go first
- help people when they are hurting
- be friendly
- be forgiving
- be faithful

Bible stories and passages

Mark 10:13-16 - Jesus, friend of children

1 Samuel 18-20 - Faithful friendship between David and Jonathan

Galatians 5:22 - The Fruit of the Spirit

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

Luke 10:25-38 - The Good Samaritan

Matthew 26 - Jesus was betrayed by His friends.

John 17:1-26 - Jesus was a faithful friend to the disciples.

Luke 10:4; Matt. 17:27; John 21:15 - Jesus loved and forgave His friends.

Luke 12:35-47 - Jesus, the faithful servant.

Bible verses

John 15:12-14 - Love one another.

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

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

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

Key Questions

What is a friend?

Who are my friends?

How do I want my friends to treat me?
How should I treat my friends?
What is the meaning of loyalty?
When do I need to have patience with my friends?
What special things do I like doing with my friends?
How can I make my friends feel that I appreciate them?
What would I do if my friend did something against me?
Who is the best friend we can have?
How can I become a friend of Jesus?

Outcomes

Students will

- understand the qualities we would expect to find in a friend.
- try to be a good friend to others.
- identify common interests and work together with a friend.
- understand the quality of loyalty.
- appreciate that there are sometimes differences and disagreements between friends.
- suggest steps for making peace when disharmony occurs.

Activities

- Write a report on a friend. Write about their interests and abilities. Include photographs or drawings.
- Compare your friend's interests and abilities with personal interests and abilities.
- Explain why you like being friends with this person.
- List the things you like to do with your friends.
- Discuss the qualities you would like in a friend.
- Discuss ways of being a good friend.
- Write a poem or piece of prose: A friend is someone who...
- Work together on a project with a friend.
- Draw a portrait of a friend.
- Make up a play about a fight between two friends and its resolution.
- Discuss the importance of forgiveness.
- Discuss the implications of 'holding a grudge'.
- Make a book about Jesus, the perfect friend, or the story of the friendship between David and Jonathan.
- Make a large class mural, "Jesus friend of children" and show children from all different cultural backgrounds.
- Discuss some situations where a friend has a need. How can you help?
- Discuss ways of helping a newcomer to make friends.
- Make up a modern-day Good Samaritan story, showing how we can be a friend to anyone who has a need. (See *Themes for Christian Studies 5, Love.*)

Assessment

1. Finish this sentence with ten different ideas:

A good friend is someone who...

2. In learning about friends, what have I also learned...

- about God? about doing what God wants me to do? about the Bible?

Additional teaching ideas

Ideas from Blake Education – Friends Integrated Unit, Australia

Outcomes

Social Studies:

- Describe the roles and responsibilities of friends.
- Describe the ways that people co-operate with and depend on each other in their work.
- Identify why there are limitations on what friends can ask each other to do.
- Interact confidently in structured and spontaneous situations, with adults and peers.
- Speak and listen in ways that help communication with peers in the playground and in the classroom.

Activities

What is a friend?

Read “The Little Red Hen” (Beacon Media Reading card Level 5)

Then ask students to role play the story. Choose one student to be the little red hen and other students to be her friends. Either choose one student to be the narrator or take this role for yourself. Give students simple name tags or headbands so that the audience knows who is playing whom. Have characters say each spoken section of the text. At its completion, ask students what the little red hen learned about her friends.

Were they true friends? Would you like to have friends like that?

Have a brainstorming session on what makes a good friend. Record students’ responses on the board or chart paper.

A to Z

Make a book called “What is a friend?” Mark the pages A to Z and write one statement per page. Children can illustrate. This can be a project over a few weeks. Examples:

- A** always your friend
- B** buddy
- C** chats with you
- D** doesn’t tell others your secrets
- E** expects you to be kind to them
- F** forgiving
- G** grateful
- H** helpful
- I** invites you over
- J** Just likes to be with you
- K** kind
- L** loves you just as you are
- M** makes you happy
- N** never nasty
- O** often needs you
- P** prays for you
- Q** quick to stand up for you
- R** remembers your birthday
- S** shares their things with you
- T** trustworthy
- U** understands you
- V** very special to you

W Willing to listen to you
X eXplains things to you
Y says “Yes” when you need their help
Z zillions of ways of having fun together

Happy times with friends

Have a discussion with students about how they feel when they are with their friends. Why is it important to have friends?

Follow your friend

This game teaches students about the trust that exists between two friends. Take the class outside and have students work in pairs. Blindfold one student in each pair. Have the other student guide their friend around a chosen track. The track might take students around trees or up and down paths. The blindfolded student must listen for the sound of their friend and follow their directions. Then have students swap roles.

Funny Friends book

Have each student fold a piece of paper into three equal sections. In the top section students draw the head of a ‘friend’—it can be as funny as they like. In the middle section, have students draw the body and arms, and in the lower section, the legs. Ask the students to draw in the center of the page and to make sure the area where the body parts cross the fold lines is about 5 cm wide. Then collect all of the funny friends and place them in a pile. Cut the pages along the fold lines. Make a cover for your Funny Friends book and staple the pages together. As students turn the pages they can mix and match everyone’s heads, bodies and legs to make up their own funny friends.

Paper chains

Have each student write their own name on five pieces of coloured paper, 2 cm wide by 10 cm long. Show students how to use glue on one end of the paper and make it into a circle or link. Then have students link all their pieces of paper together into one long paper chain of friendship.

Paper doll chain

Talk with students about how friends can be of any age or nationality. Ask students if they have friends who live overseas or a long way away. Ask students if they have any friends that are older than they are—they could be a few years older, or adults. Each child can make a paper cut-out of a person, draw facial features, clothes etc. and join the hands with tape to make a long chain.

Who are my friends?

Have students trace around the hand of one of their friends. Make sure that all students are considered friends and have their hands traced. You could include students from other classes, or each student could draw a name out of a hat and friends could be assigned in that way. After the students have traced their friend’s hand, have them think of five qualities that make this person a good friend. Ask students to write each quality in one of the fingers and the student’s name in the palm of the hand. Display all the hands on the classroom wall.

Becoming a friend

Have students do a role-play of approaching a new student in the playground. How can they let him or her know that they want to be friends? What could they do to help the new student feel welcome and settled in their new environment?

Weaving a web of friends

Have students sit in a circle. Give one student a ball of wool. The student must roll the ball to a friend while keeping hold of the end of the wool, and then say why this person makes a good friend. The second student then holds onto the wool, rolls the ball towards another friend and says why this person is such a good friend. As the ball of wool is rolled from one student to another, it makes a web shape on the floor.

What can you do with friends?

Ask students to draw a picture of themselves having fun with a friend. Help each student to write a sentence about what they are doing in the drawing.

A friend lets you say no

Ask students to share memories of times when their friends have asked them to do things that they knew were wrong, or just did not want to do. Talk with students about the problems that can arise and how you can overcome them. Role-play some situations in which it is important to say no to a friend. Some ideas for the role-play include students asking their friends to:

- cross the road in the city without going to the pedestrian crossing
- eat part of someone else's lunch
- play a game when they feel like being quiet
- take money that has been left on a table.

Friendship flowers

Ask students to draw a large flower on a piece of paper. Students can decorate their flowers and write messages to their friends.

My body, your body

Ask students to measure specific parts of their friend's body: legs, arms, foot, hand, total height. Students should then compare their own body measurements with their friends'. Encourage students to use phrases such as 'longer than', 'shorter than', 'the same as' and 'wider than'.

Sharing

Introduce the concept of division by providing students with a variety of objects and asking them to share them equally amongst their friends. Have students sit in a circle. Place a number of objects in the middle (make sure the number is divisible by three).

Ask students to choose three friends and to give each one the same number of objects. Ask the rest of the class to guess how many objects they think each student will end up with.

Increase the number and allow for leftovers, as students become more familiar with the activity. Talk about the importance of sharing in everyday life. Ask students to suggest times when it is important to share. When is it OK not to share?

Class post office

Have students write letters to their friends. Make sure that students remember to write the date and their address at the top of the page. Remind students to start the letter with 'Dear ...' and to sign their name at the end.

Help students to address the envelope correctly.

Why is it important to have friends?

Imagine a world with no friends. Have students imagine what it would be like to have no friends. Treat this activity with caution if some students in your class are having trouble making friends. Read a text about making friends with children with disabilities or children from different cultures. As a class, make a list of friendly things that each student could try to do.

Some examples:

- at lunch time sit next to someone I've never sat next to before
- write a letter to a friend
- be partners with someone I've never been partners with before
- smile at someone
- give a flower to a friend
- include someone new in your game
- pay someone a compliment.

At the end of the day, discuss how hard or easy students found it to be friendly.

Friendships with elderly people

Discuss why elderly people especially need to have friends.

Can a child be a good friend to an elderly person?

Beacon Media Thinking skills: Friends

Values education Year 2

God is Love

Friendliness

Jesus is the best friend we can ever have.

Friendliness is...

- caring about someone
- being willing to help someone
- listening to someone
- spending time with someone
- being interested in the interests of someone
- sticking up for someone when they are going through hard times
- showing kindness
- sharing

Activities

1. Make a list of all the qualities you would like to have in a friend
2. Choose a friend and answer these questions about them.

What do you like most about your friend?

What common interests do you have?

How is your friend different to you?

What things do you share with your friend?

What things does your friend share with you?

What was the best time you have ever had together?

Questions

1. What does this saying mean: *"A friend loves at all times."*
2. How to you make friends with someone?
3. What do you have to do to keep your friend?

Which of these things are important in a friend?

will listen to me		is liked by everyone	
tells the truth		buys me great presents	
helps me		likes doing the things that I do	
looks really nice		is good at sport	
is kind		will do whatever I want	
makes me laugh		does the things that are right	

What does the Bible say about friendliness?

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times.

Proverbs 18:24 There is a Friend who is closer than a brother.

Betty's Problem

Billy

What's wrong, Betty?

Betty

I'm not feeling very happy today.

Billy

Why not?

Betty

The boy from next door was rude to me, then he threw water on me, and as I was running inside to get away from him I slipped over and got my dress all muddy. Then I went to wash it and spilt the washing powder all over the floor.

Billy

Don't worry Betty. I'll help you clean up the mess... and never mind about that boy next door. Hey Betty! How would you like to come over to my place after we've cleaned up. We can play a game and have something to eat... and I'll let you have a lend of my favourite car.

Betty

Thanks Billy. You're a real friend.

Activities

What was Betty's problem?

How did Billy cheer her up?

Think

In being kind to Betty, and helping her to feel happier, Billy was giving JOY. Giving away joy is like giving away a smile. We don't lose it by giving it away. Joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit.

Newcomer

Number of characters: 3

Mum: Come on everyone. Hurry up and get ready or we'll be late for church.

Billy and Betty: OK Mum.

Billy and Betty arrive at church.

Betty: Hey look Billy. 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 his best clothes like we are.

Billy: You girls worry too much about your clothes. It doesn't matter if she's not all dressed up. Maybe she hasn't got any best clothes.

Betty: You're right Billy. Come on, let's go over and say hello to her.

Betty: (to new comer) Hi, I'm Betty. It's good to have you along today. What's your name?

Newcomer: (says name)

Betty: 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.

Newcomer: Thanks Betty.

God is Love

Character development/value: friendliness

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

Art Year 2

God is Love

Topic: Friends

Biblical connection: Jesus loves children and is their friend. He wants us to love others and be a good friend to others.

Bible art as a wall display: Jesus, special friend of children Mark 10:13-16

1. Drawing

Activities:

- Draw yourself with your best friend.
- Draw yourself with several of your best friends. Show what you like to do together.

2. Painting

- Paint a portrait of your best friend, (head and shoulders)

3. Construction

- Make something that you would like to give to a friend.

4. Modelling

- Make the head of your best friend out of clay.

Friends 1

Think of something you could make with a friend. Make a list of the things you will need. Now draw yourself and a friend making something together.

Friends 2

Write and draw something that you could learn from your friend.

Friends 3

Think of something you could teach a friend. It could be a game, a craft or any skill you have. Draw and write about this.

Friends 4

On a card, write the name of your best friend. Write the things you like about your friend. Now give the card to your friend.

Friends 5

You are going to have a party. Make a party invitation to send to your friends.

Friends 6

Think of 3 things you have that you could share with your friends. Draw and write about these things.