

# Friends

## God is Patient and Kind

### **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 self 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 Patient and Kind'**

Because God is 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

### **Supporting devotional resource**

*Themes for Christian Studies 3, (Love): Jesus is a friend*

*Themes for Christian Studies 2, (Truth): God is faithful to His word*

*Themes for Christian Studies 4, (Love): God is a loving Father*

*Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Servant): Jesus, the faithful servant*

*Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Love): God wants us to love others*

### **Biblical References**

#### **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.

### **Memory 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.

- 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 Beacon Media Resources**

Visual Language Units: Friends; Conflict