

# FRIENDSHIP

USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS  
TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE.

WEEK 1  
2<sup>ND</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

Read John 15:12

DAY 1



This month is all about friendship! Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care. To have good friends, you need to be a good friend. And one BIG way to do that is by remembering that friends love each other.

That's why these words we read from Jesus today are so important. Jesus is commanding us to love one another.

Grab a piece of paper. Carefully tear off the edges, no more than about an inch on each side. Then wad the paper up to make it look like it's aged. Flatten out the page with your hand and write the words of this verse in the center. Roll up the top and bottom to the center to create scroll. At your next family meal, hold up your scroll, say "Hear ye, hear ye" and then read the command inside!

Thank God for friendships and His command to love one another.

Read 1 Samuel 20:17

DAY 2

One of the best examples of friendship in the Bible is the story of David and Jonathan. Jonathan was King Saul's son. Usually the title of King is passed from father to son. But God had chosen David to be the next king.

Wait, who was chosen to be the next king? \_\_\_\_\_

That's right, David. NOT Jonathan. But Jonathan wasn't angry about that. In fact, David was his best friend. What does this verse tell us? That Jonathan loved David just as he loved \_\_\_\_\_. Even though Jonathan could have chosen jealousy, he chose love instead.

Is there someone in your world that you're angry with right now? Is there someone who bugs you or who you have a hard time getting along with? Ask God to help you choose words and actions that show love and friendship to that person this week.

Ask God to help you be a good friend, even when you don't feel like it.

FRIENDS  
LOVE  
ONE ANOTHER.

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Read 1 John 4:19

DAY 3

What comes first?

Socks or shoes? \_\_\_\_\_

A or B? \_\_\_\_\_

Shorts or underwear? \_\_\_\_\_

3 or 2? \_\_\_\_\_

There's an order to things, right? You have to put your socks on before your shoes. And certainly your underwear isn't worn over your shorts! A comes before B and 2 before 3!

When it comes to loving others, there's an order too. The key to that order is found in this verse. Before we can really be a good friend and love others the right way, we need to know that we're loved FIRST. Who loves us? God! We can love others the right way, the BEST way, when we realize that God loves us.

His love is perfect.

His love is unconditional.

And when you really understand just how big His love for you is, then you can love others too.

**Look** for opportunities to show love to your friends because God loves you.

Read Proverbs 17:17

DAY 4

This verse is a BIG one. Notice that it doesn't say a friend loves "when it's easy" or, "when I get my way" or, "when everyone is getting along." A friend loves at ALL times.

To help you remember to show friendship through your words and actions, we want you to create a backpack tag for each week's bottom line. Cut out the tag on the right, decorate it and cover it with tape on both sides. Punch a hole in the top, run ribbon or yarn through the hole and then loop it through your zipper on your backpack.

**Know** that you can be a friend who loves at all times with God's help.

FRIENDS  
LOVE  
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# FRIENDSHIP

USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS  
TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE. WEEK 2  
2<sup>ND</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

## Read Romans 15:7

## DAY 1



What does it mean to accept something? Look up the word "accept" in the dictionary or ask a trusted adult to help you Google it and write the definition below. *HINT: There will probably be several definitions. Choose the one that makes the most sense when you read today's verse.*

ACCEPT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To be a good friend, you have to accept one another, no matter what. To show someone acceptance means that you recognize that the other person is uniquely and wonderfully made. Acceptance says, "I choose to be your friend. I choose to accept who you are without expecting you to be anyone other than yourself."

Why should you accept others? Because Christ has accepted you! And how do you know that? Because Jesus loved you enough to give His life for you on the cross and rose again three days later so you could be forgiven. He didn't ask you to clean yourself up or fix all your mistakes. He faced the punishment for you and loves you unconditionally. What an awesome friend!

**Thank** God for sending Jesus to show you what a good friend looks like!

## Read Romans 2:11

## DAY 2

Do you treat everyone the same? This is SUPER hard. But it doesn't mean that you shouldn't try. Acceptance means that you try not to judge someone else based solely on how they look or act. It means you show patience when you have to wait for your friend to catch up. It means to stop and listen to what your friend has to say before interrupting with what you want to say. It means that you treat everyone the same.

Whoa, did you catch that? God expects us to treat everyone the same. That includes:

- the mean kid
- the kid who always gets the right answer
- the new kid
- the kid everyone picks on
- the kid who smells like cheese
- the super quiet kid

Everyone means *every. single. one.* God has accepted you. He made you and He loves you. He also made every single kid on the list above and He loves each of them the same. So be a good friend and choose to treat everyone the same—with acceptance and love.

**Ask** God to help accept and offer friendship to every kid.

FRIENDS  
ACCEPT  
ONE ANOTHER.

# FRIENDSHIP

USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS  
TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE. WEEK 2  
2<sup>ND</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

## Read Galatians 5:14

DAY 3

Back in the Old Testament, the Israelites, God's chosen people, had a list of over 600 rules they had to follow! Can you imagine learning and following over 600 rules?

Fast forward to the New Testament, when all those rules were still in effect. People like the Pharisees worked really hard to keep all these rules and to make sure everyone else did too. But Jesus came to show them (and us) that following God wasn't about a bunch of rules. Following God is about a relationship. All those rules really come down to one thing: to love or accept your neighbor as yourself.

Grab a piece of paper. Write down all the rules you can think of in any order and in any way you want to. In large letters across the center of the page write the #1 rule: Love others as you love yourself. Hang this page in a place where you'll see it everyday to remind you to be a good friend this week.

**Look** for ways to love and accept others as you love and accept yourself this week.

## Read Philippians 2:1-2

DAY 4

Ever wonder how you make God happy? Want to know how to make God's "joy complete?" The key is found in this verse. God wants us to love each other. He wants us to agree with each other. He hates it when we argue and fight, especially when our arguments and fights are about silly things like who gets to line up first or who gets the next turn on the swings. We make God super happy when we choose to get along and agree with one another instead of insisting on our own way.

It's time to create your second backpack tag! Cut out the tag on the right, decorate it with stickers, markers or finger paint and cover it with tape on both sides. Punch a hole in the top, run ribbon or yarn through the hole and then loop it through your zipper on your backpack.

**Know** that you can be a good friend by choosing to accept others!



# FRIENDSHIP

USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS  
TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE. WEEK 3  
2<sup>ND</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

## Read Colossians 3:13

DAY 1



When a friend messes up, like they don't let you have the ball, or say something mean without thinking, what do you do? Do you get mad? When they apologize, do you STAY mad? When a friend hurts you and then says, "I'm really sorry," do you refuse to listen and hold a grudge or do you say, "it's okay" but not really mean it?

One part of friendship is learning to forgive. Why? Because your friends aren't perfect. Neither are you. They will mess up. No matter what, forgiveness is always the best choice. Because you have been forgiven too. So if you are holding something against someone, choose forgiveness. Friends forgive one another.

In the verse below, the following letters are missing! Fill in the blanks to complete the verse:

F O R G I V E

"Put up w \_ th \_ n \_ an \_ th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ n \_ an \_ th \_ \_ i \_ y \_ u a \_ \_ h \_ ld \_ ng  
s \_ m \_ th \_ n \_ a \_ a \_ n \_ st s \_ m \_ \_ n \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ just as th \_ L \_ \_ d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a \_ e \_ y \_ u ."

C \_ l \_ ss \_ ans 3:13

**Thank** God for forgiving you so that you can forgive your friends.

## Read Ephesians 4:32

DAY 2

One big way to be a good friend is to offer forgiveness when a friend messes up. But when it comes to forgiveness, you have to use your words AND your actions.

To forgive means you to have say it AND show it. So let's try a little pop quiz to get you thinking about how to do that. Don't worry, it's not for a grade

A friend borrows your ball without asking and kicks it over the fence into a neighbor's yard. He apologizes and rings the doorbell to get the ball back, but the neighbor is out of town till next week. That means a whole week with NO ball! To show forgiveness . . .

What can you say: \_\_\_\_\_

What can you do: \_\_\_\_\_

Friendship is about forgiveness. You can't be kind and loving as this verse commands without forgiving when someone messes up. You can be a good friend by saying it with your words and showing it with your actions.

**Ask** God to help you say and show forgiveness when it's needed.

# FRIENDSHIP

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TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE. WEEK 3  
2<sup>ND</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

Read Matthew 6:14

DAY 3

Here's something that's kind of hard to understand. When you refuse to forgive, God takes it personally. Why? Because He's done a LOT to make sure you know you're forgiven. How? By sending Jesus.

Jesus came, lived a perfect life and then died on the cross. Not because He deserved it, but because WE did. He paid the price for our sin, for ALL sin, by suffering for us. And the best part, three days later, He ROSE again to fix that broken relationship once and for all.

So when you refuse to forgive your brother for stepping on your new Lego creation, or hold a grudge against the kid who didn't pick you for his team, it's like you're completely forgetting what God has done for you. You are forgiven. No matter what you do.

And because you're forgiven, God is asking you to forgive others too. Not because it's easy or convenient. Not even because you *want* to. But because YOU ARE FORGIVEN. And forgiven people should be forgiving people.

**Look** for opportunities to forgive as you've been forgiven.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

DAY 4

Did you catch the part at the end that says, love "keeps no record of wrongs"? What does that really mean anyway?

It's like keeping a mental list of everything someone does that upsets you. Keeping a "record of wrongs" can be exhausting. And it's not really fair because YOU mess up too. In fact, you mess up enough to fill up a list of your own. A good friend ditches that mess up list and chooses to forgive and move on.

It's time to create our third backpack tag. Cut out the tag on the right, decorate it and cover it with tape on both sides. Punch a hole in the top, run ribbon or yarn through the hole and then loop it through your zipper on your backpack.

**Know** that God has called you to be a good friend and forgive each other.

FRIENDS  
FORGIVE  
ONE ANOTHER.

FRIENDS  
FORGIVE  
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# FRIENDSHIP

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WEEK 4  
2<sup>ND</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

## Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11

## DAY 1



We've been learning all month about how to be a good friend. And this week, we're focusing on a big part of friendship—encouragement. You know what it means to encourage someone right? To encourage means to cheer someone or urge them on in with confidence. There are LOTS of ways you can encourage someone both with your actions and your words. Because friends encourage one another.

Grab a set of Jenga or building blocks. Write the words of today's verse on some of the blocks and stack them up for play. Grab a friend and play the game. Remember, the goal of the game is to try NOT to knock the structure down. As you play, give say some of the phrases below (or others that you come up with on your own) to encourage your friend.

"You've got this!"

"You can do it!"

"Way to go!"

"You are so awesome at this!"

Thank God for your friends that you can encourage.

## Read Proverbs 15:1

## DAY 2

According to this verse, what happens when you answer your friend in a gentle way, choosing kind words?

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What happens when you choose mean words? \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, friendship is using WORDS and actions to show others you care. Your words mean something. And once you've said something, you cannot take it back! Choosing words that are helpful, gentle and kind, can protect your friendships. Mean or unkind words can ruin them. You have the opportunity to encourage your friends with the words you choose.

Completely scribble over the "mean phrases" below and write in new, kind words instead.

"Go away"

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"We don't like you"

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"You're weird"

---

"You're dumb"

---

"That's so lame"

---

"Get lost"

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Ask God to help you think before you speak and choose kind words this week.

FRIENDS  
ENCOURAGE  
ONE ANOTHER.

# FRIENDSHIP

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2<sup>ND</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

## Read Galatians 6:2

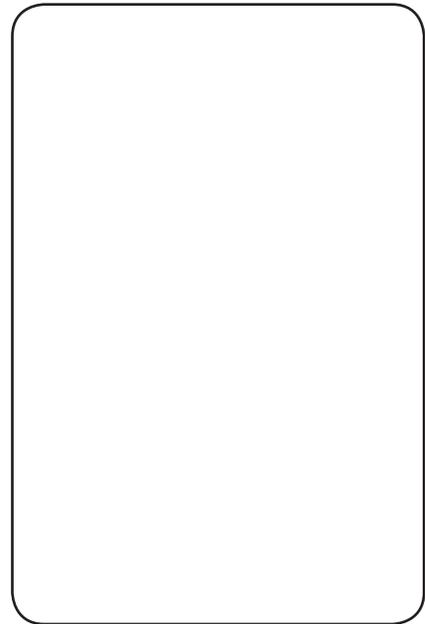
DAY 3

One BIG part of friendship is supporting a friend when he or she is sad. This is the part that we don't always think about but sometimes our friends really need our encouragement. Maybe they are struggling in math and failed their last test or other kids are being mean. Maybe a grandmother is sick and your friend is scared that she won't get better. The Bible tells us that one big way we can encourage our friends is by "carrying one another's heavy loads."

That doesn't mean you actually carry something around. It means that you think about them and pray for them. You don't have to fix the problem. You just need to remind them that you are there to listen and to offer a hug. Because friends encourage one another.

Can you think of a friend who is sad? Write their name to the right and ONE thing you can do this week to show that friend that you want to help carry his/ her heavy load.

**Listen** to your friend, offer a hug and a word of encouragement when he or she is sad.



## Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

DAY 4

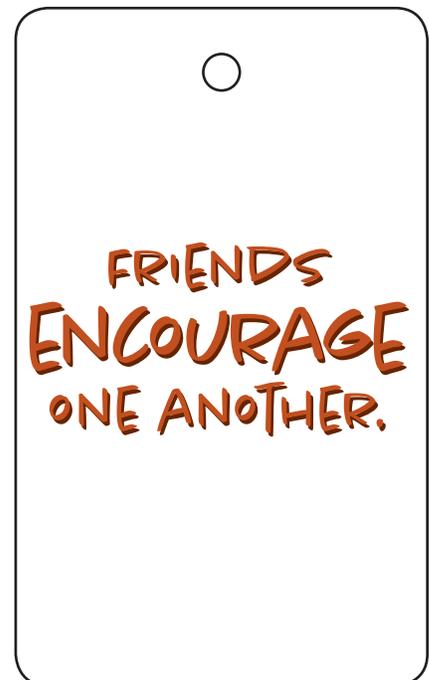
We've learned some SUPER important lessons this month about friendship.

- Friends *love* each other.
- Friends *accept* each other.
- Friends *forgive* each other.
- Friends *encourage* each other.

When you can show love and acceptance, offer forgiveness when it's needed and encouragement when someone is down, you will be the kind of friend that EVERYONE wants to have. Because friendship is about using your words and actions to show someone you care. After all, as today's verse reminds us, two really are better than one. We are made for friendship!

Since this our last week, let's create ONE more backpack tag. Cut out the tag on the right, decorate it with glitter or sequins or crazy neon colors and cover it with tape on both sides. Punch a hole in the top, run ribbon or yarn through the hole and then loop it through your zipper on your backpack.

**Know** that good friends encourage one another.



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