



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
SEPTEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP

**K-1**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



*Take a few moments to pray for your children. Pray that kids would see the need for and value of forgiveness, and how God can use it to heal a friendship. Ask God to bring to mind anything that needs to be forgiven or anything kids need to ask forgiveness for. Pray for wisdom and discernment as you navigate the conversation around those relationships.*

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### I'll Be There for You

Jesus and Peter

John 21:1-19

(supporting: John 18:1-27)

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Friends forgive one another.**

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 17:17 NIV

## MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way  
I want to be treated.**

## 1. EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Fish" Activity Pages, paper clips, children's books about friendship

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome the kids as they arrive and encourage those who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Read a book about friendship. Children's books about friendship like *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister; *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni, or *The Very Lonely Firefly* by Eric Carle
- As you are reading, ask the kids to help you cut out the fish from the "Fish" Activity Pages and slide a paperclip on each fish.  
*Note: They can finish cutting them out in the "Opening Activity."*
- Lead a discussion on friendship with your group based on the book. (Remember, kids can often express themselves best by putting themselves in someone else's shoes.)
- ASK:
  - What did we learn about friendship from this book?
  - Was this a good example of treating others the way you want to be treated? Why or why not?



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**What to Do:**

Make three copies for each group (for a total of 24 fish).

**"Fish" Activity Page**

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## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



## 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Fish" Activity Pages, yardsticks/dowel rods, yarn, scissors, magnets, and paper clips

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Create two fishing poles for your group by tying yarn to the end of each yardstick. Tie a magnet to the end of each "fishing line."
- Finish cutting out your fish from the "Fish" Activity Pages and attach a paper clip to each one.
- Lay your fish on the floor, spread out across your Small Group area. This will be your "fishing hole."
- Divide your group into two teams and lead them to stand on either side of your fishing hole.
- Let a player from each team race to see how many fish they can catch in one minute.
- Kids will catch fish by attaching the magnet on their pole to the paperclip on the fish.
- After each round, count the number of fish caught, tally for each team, and return the fish to the fishing hole for the next round.
- After everyone has had a turn, the team with the most points wins!

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Great fishin' friends! **[Transition]** In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a time when Peter went fishing and saw someone on the beach. Pay close attention to see if you can figure out who he met on the beach."



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning  
through following guidelines and/or  
working as a group



## 1. HULA HOOP CORNHOLE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Hula hoops, floor tape, and beanbags

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay the two hula hoops on the floor about 15 feet apart if you have the room. Use the floor tape to secure the hula hoops to the floor in two or three spots. *NOTE: Keep these hula hoops on the floor for the next activity, "Words of the Verse Tossing."*
- Inside each hula hoop, use the tape to create a square, like the hole in a cornhole board.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Line up each team to stand next to a hula hoop.
- Select a team to go first and read a review question from the list below.
- If the team answers correctly, the first kid in line will toss his beanbag, aiming to land in the hula hoop across from them (the hoop near the other team).
- If the team answers incorrectly, give the opposing team one chance to answer, then toss the beanbag if they're correct.
- Remind kids to toss the beanbag underhanded.
- Teams should be standing next to the hula hoop closest to them and tossing to the other hula hoop.
- Award points to each team as follows:
  - Three points if the beanbag lands inside the taped square or "hole"
  - One point if the beanbag lands inside the hula hoop
  - Zero points if the beanbag lands on the floor outside the hula hoop.
- Total all points and declare a winner.

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**Friendship—Using your words and  
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## BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way  
I want to be treated.**

### Review Questions:

1. True or False: On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter told everyone that Jesus was his best friend. (*False, Peter lied about even knowing Jesus.*)
2. After Jesus died and came back, Peter and his friends got on a boat. What did they do? (*They went fishing.*)
3. After fishing all night, Peter and his friends caught: a) no fish, b) a few fish, or c) a ton of fish? (*A. no fish*)
4. After they were done fishing, they looked on the shore and saw a man standing there but they didn't recognize him at first. Who was it? (*Jesus*)
5. Jesus told them to throw their nets on the right side of the boat. When they did, what happened? (*The net was so full of fish they couldn't get it into the boat!*)
6. What did Peter do when he realized it was Jesus on the shore? (*Put on his coat and jumped out of the boat to walk to the shore.*)
7. When they got to the beach, what did they find? (*Jesus had already started cooking breakfast!*)



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## (1. HULA HOOP CORNHOLE, CONTINUED)

8. What did they eat for breakfast: a) pancakes, b) fish and bread, or c) eggs and toast? (*B. fish and bread*)
9. When Jesus told Peter to "feed my lambs" what did he mean: a) feed people who were hungry, b) take care of the people following Jesus, or c) ignore the people around him (*B. take care of the people following Jesus*)
10. Jesus said, "Follow me." Did Jesus forgive Peter? (Yes)
11. What do you think it means when Jesus says, "Follow me"? (*To love others the way Jesus loves us; to forgive, to show kindness, to put others first*)
12. Today we learned that friends: a) forgive one another, b) ignore each other, or c) get back at one another (*A. forgive one another*)

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"I love this story. Peter really messed up. He denied ever knowing Jesus, not once, not twice, but how many times? (*Pause for answers.*) Yes, three times! And Jesus knew this. But He wasn't angry. Jesus chose to forgive Peter. After they had breakfast together, Jesus asked Peter three times to 'feed my lambs.' Jesus wanted Peter to take care of His followers. He still had a BIG job for Peter to do. Jesus forgave Peter because that's what good friends do.

"I know it can be hard to forgive when a friend says or does something unkind. But when a friend says they're sorry, we should choose to forgive. Remember, no one is perfect. You might be the one who messes up and says or does something you didn't mean to do the next time. Jesus tells us to treat others the way we want to be treated. When we mess up, we want others to forgive us, so let's do the same for our friends! Because **friends forgive one another.**"

**[Make it Personal]** (*Tell the kids about a time when you messed up and someone chose to forgive you. What did you learn about being a good friend in this situation?*)



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## MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen  
in the brain and taps into the energy  
in the body



## 2. WORDS OF THE VERSE TOSSING

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Cards" (Activity Page),  
Bible, hula hoops, beanbags

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up Proverbs 17:17 to read to the kids as a review.
- Divide group into two teams. Choose different teams from the previous activity.
- Spread out a set of "Memory Verse Cards" on the floor inside each hula hoop.
- Have each team line up next to a hula hoop.
- One at a time, kids from each team will toss the beanbag, aiming to land on one of the cards in the hula hoop across/farther from their team.
- If the beanbag lands on a card, the player will run and grab the card and the beanbag, return to the team, and pass the beanbag off to the next player in line.
  - If the beanbag lands on two words, the kid will only take ONE card and return to the team to pass off the beanbag.
  - If the beanbag does not land on a card, the kid will retrieve the beanbag and try one more time.
- Once a team collects all their "Memory Verse Cards," they work together to put them in the order of the verse and sit down to signal they are finished.
- Read the verse aloud together and declare a winner.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"When does a friend love? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, at ALL times. What about when a friend hurts us and needs to be forgiven? Should we love them then? (*Pause for responses.*) Absolutely. Even when we've been hurt or disappointed, we should think about how Jesus forgave Peter. We can choose to forgive, even when it's the last thing we feel like doing. God will help us because **friends forgive one another**. I'm so glad God has given us our friends, and that He will help us forgive others just as He forgives us!"

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### I'll Be There for You

Jesus and Peter

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(supporting: John 18:1-27)

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Friends forgive one another.**

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

A friend loves at all times, and a  
brother is born for a time of  
adversity.

Proverbs 17:17 NIV

## MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Friendship—Using your words and  
actions to show others you care**

## BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way  
I want to be treated.**

**A friend**

**loves at**

**all times,**

**and a**

**brother**

**is born**

**for a**

**time of**

**adversity.**

**Proverbs 17:17, NIV**

**What to Do:**

Print and cut apart. Provide two sets for each group.

**"Memory Verse Cards, NIV" Activity Page**

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## MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



## \*3. FORGIVENESS IS IN THE BAG!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Friends Forgive One Another" bubbles (Activity Page), "Forgiveness Strips" Activity Pages, glue sticks, markers/crayons, scissors

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**I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a brown lunch sack and a Bottom Line word bubble. Read the Bottom Line together. **Friends forgive one another.**
- Encourage the kids to glue the Bottom Line to the front of their lunch sack with the glue stick and decorate the bag with markers.
- Give each kid a "Forgiveness Strips" Activity Page and have them cut apart on the lines.
- Read the text on one of the strips aloud.
- Explain to kids that this is their "forgiveness bag" for the week.
- When a friend makes them angry or sad, and they don't want to forgive, instruct kids to write that friend's name in the blank on one strip and put it in the bag.
- Then, they can pray for that friend and ask God to help them forgive. They can store the strips in the bag for travel home.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Your forgiveness bags look great! This week, I can almost guarantee that you will have a disagreement with a friend. Maybe someone will say something they don't mean, or push their way in front of you, or leave you out. When those things happen and you get frustrated or angry, I want you to write that friend's name on the blank of one of your strips. Say a prayer and ask God to help you forgive that friend, then put the strip in the bag.

"At the end of the week, I want you to throw the strips away without looking at the names again. Remember that **friends forgive one another**. Instead of holding onto our anger or trying to pay back a friend who hurts us, let's choose forgiveness instead. God will help us forgive, and He's shown us how because He always forgives us!"

*NOTE: Leaders, forgiving friends is the right choice when someone says or does something unkind. But if a kid is being bullied or consistently hurt by someone who claims to be a friend, this is a completely different situation. Remind your kids to always tell a trusted adult when they need help. While we are called to love and forgive others, that doesn't mean we need to remain in a friendship with someone who hurts us. That goes back to what we learned week one about choosing your friends carefully. For the majority of your kids, this will not be the case, but you know your few. If a kid expresses anything about a friend that sounds concerning to you, please share that information with a parent or guardian, or ask a church staff member for guidance if you don't know the family well.*





**Friends forgive one  
another.**



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**What to Do:**

Print and cut apart. Provide one thought bubble for each kid.

**"Friends Forgive One Another" Activity Page**

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**Dear God, help me forgive \_\_\_\_\_ because a friend loves at all times.**

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**Dear God, help me forgive \_\_\_\_\_ because a friend loves at all times.**

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**WHAT TO DO:**

Print one page for each kid.



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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



### 4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Forgiveness bags from "Forgiveness Is in the Bag" Activity

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Guide the kids to hold their forgiveness bags, read the Bottom Line on the front, then pray together.
- If anyone would like to pray aloud, encourage them to do so.
- Assure any kids who do not want to pray aloud that they may silently pray on their own.
- After a few moments, close in prayer.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to be a good friend! Thank You for the story of Peter and how Jesus chose to forgive him. We know that **friends forgive one another**. As we write down names on our strips this week, will You help us follow through and forgive our friends? Thank You for loving us at ALL times, even when we mess up. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

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