

# Loving my Friends

Lesson Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-20; 20:1-42

**Bible Truth:** I will show love to my friends.

**Bible Story:** 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-20; 20:1-42

**Bible Verse:** "A friend loves at all times..."(Proverbs 17:17a, NIV)

## FOCUS

### Learning Activity: "A Friend Loves at All Times"

#### Preparation

Use construction paper or a poster board to cut 9" circles or use circled-shaped disposable plates. On each circle draw a face that illustrates feelings expressed by children, such as happiness, sadness, anger, fear, loneliness, shyness, etc.

**Materials**  
poster board, construction  
paper, or paper plates  
markers

#### Presentation

Show the children the emotion circles you prepared and say: **Each one of these faces shows some kind of feeling or emotion. Can you mention the emotion shown on each one of these faces?**

Allow different children to choose faces. Discuss the following questions:

**Have you ever had this feeling?**

**Have any of your friends ever had this feeling?**

**What can you do to help your friend when he feels this way?**

**Would you rather be with your friend when she is happy or sad?**

**Do you continue the friendship with your friend when he is feeling bad or is having a bad day?**

**Even when your friends are having a bad day or feeling sad, they need you to care about them.**

Conclude the discussion with a prayer and ask each child to pray silently for a friend who might be sad or having a bad day.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Proverbs 17:17a

### Preparation

Write Proverbs 17:17a on a poster board.

**Materials**  
poster board  
markers

### Explanation

Say: **This verse tells us that we should love our friends at all times. I am going to read the Bible verse. Listen carefully to see if you hear any mistakes.**

Read the following phrases to the children. At the end of each one, ask them to correct the mistake.

A friend loves only during happy times.

A friend loves only when someone is being nice.

A friend loves when it is easy.

A friend loves when someone gives them a present .

Say: **God wants us to show love to our friends ALL OF THE TIME.**

### Memorization Activity

Divide the children into two groups. One group will say the phrase, "A friend loves." The other group will say the phrase, "at all times." Ask the groups to face each other and say their phrases to each other while jumping on one foot, with their eyes closed, whispering, shouting, etc.

## INSTRUCT

### Bible Story: "David's Best Friend," I Samuel 18:1-4, 19:1-20; 20:1-42

### Preparation

Read and study 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-20, 20:1-42.

Ask two young people, at least a week prior to this lesson, to learn the dialogue below and to be ready to present it to the children during your class. Provide them with clothes similar to those used during biblical times.

**Materials**  
Bible  
2 Bible costumes

## **Presentation**

David: **Hello. I'm David. Do you remember me? I'm the little shepherd who wrote several songs. I'm the little warrior who killed the giant Goliath! You remember. I'm here because there is someone special I want you to meet. This is ...**  
(starts looking around for Jonathan) **Jonathan?**

(Jonathan enters hesitantly, looking timidly around the classroom.)

**This is Jonathan, son of Saul. Saul was chosen by God to be the first king in Israel. Jonathan is the best friend I've ever had.** (Jonathan smiles, and timidly greets the audience.)

**He's a little shy. He would never tell you this, but he's a war hero.**

Jonathan: **That's not true.**

David: (Speaking to the audience): **You see what I mean?** (Speaking to Jonathan): **You won the victory against the Philistines in Mishmash, all by yourself.**

Jonathan: **David, it was God who worked that victory. Besides, I was not alone. My armor-bearer was with me.**

David: **The rest of Israel's mighty army was hiding in caves when you decided to attack.**

Jonathan: **They were afraid because the enemy had a lot of soldiers. We only had a few.**

David: **But you were not afraid!**

Jonathan: **Numbers are meaningless when you have God on your side. But if we are going to talk about heroes—**(Turns to speak to the audience): **The first time I saw this young man was when he was fighting against a giant with a slingshot...and he won.**

David: (Jokingly) **Jonathan was so impressed that he gave me his shirt.**

Jonathan: (Speaking to the audience): **My father was very impressed with him, too. He took David to the palace and made him part of the family.**

David: **Until Saul disobeyed God, and I was chosen to become the next king.**

Jonathan: **My dad didn't like that very much.**

David: **He hated it. And because of that, he hated me.**

Jonathan: **I don't think he hated you. I think that he was just afraid of you, and he was very jealous.** (Speaking to the audience): **People started to sing: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." Every time my father heard this, it made him very angry.**

David: **The truth is that he became crazy and wanted to kill me.**

Jonathan: **David, on one occasion, I convinced him not to kill you. I reminded him of all the things you had done for him, and he changed his mind. He allowed you to marry his daughter, didn't he?**

David: **Yes, I married Michal, and she warned me the next time Saul decided to kill me. (Speaking to the audience): She took me out of the house and went to Jonathan for help.**

Jonathan: (Speaking to the audience): **I couldn't believe it. Usually, my father would tell me everything. I thought I would know if he planned to kill David.**

David: **He wouldn't have told you that. He knew how close we were as friends.**

Jonathan: (Speaking to the audience): **Well, we needed to know the truth, so David came up with a plan.**

David: (Speaking to the audience): **It was almost time for a big celebration at the palace, and I knew that Saul was expecting to see me there. I felt sure that instead of welcoming me to the celebration, he was going to try to kill me. My plan was to hide out in the woods instead of going to the party. Jonathan would signal to me if there was any danger by shooting arrows into the woods.**

Jonathan: (Continuing to speak to the audience) **If my father asked about David, I was going to tell him that I had given David permission to miss the celebration.**

David: (Speaking to the audience): **If I was wrong about Saul, he wouldn't be upset that I wasn't at the celebration. But if he was planning to kill me, my absence would make him very mad.**

Jonathan: **And that's what happened.**

David: (Still speaking to the audience): **Saul got mad and accused Jonathan of plotting some sort of evil with me. Then Saul threw a sword at Jonathan, his own son!**

Jonathan: (Speaking to the audience): **He ordered me to take David to the castle and kill him. But instead, I warned David by shooting arrows into the woods, and then I helped him escape.**

David: (Speaking to Jonathan): **You disobeyed your father in order to save my life.**

Jonathan: **He was wrong.**

David: **But still, it must have been difficult to choose between us.**

Jonathan: **Not really. I did what God wanted me to do.**

David: **What do you mean?**

Jonathan: **Well, I love you David because you are my best friend. However, the reason I helped you was because I knew that was what God wanted me to do.**

David: (Speaking to the audience): **Didn't I tell you he is a great man? He was the prince of Israel. He could have let Saul kill me, and he would have been the next king.**

Jonathan: **God chose you to become king. Besides, we had made a promise to each other.**

David: **That is true.** (Speaking to the audience): **We promised to be friends forever.**

Jonathan: **And we always were.**

David. **And we always will be.**  
(David puts his arm around Jonathan, and they both leave.)

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## APPLICATION

### Learning Activity: Game, "Shooting the Arrow"

#### Preparation

Use a poster board to make a big target. Give a numeric value to each circle inside the target.



#### Presentation

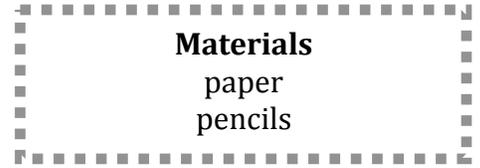
Say: **Today we are going to play a game. We'll pretend that these balls are arrows, just like the ones Jonathan used to warn David.** Divide the children into two teams. Take turns asking each team the questions listed below from the Bible story. Each time a team gives the correct answer to a question, one team member can throw a ball and try to hit the target. The team receives the points marked on the circle that was hit. The winning team is the one with the highest score after all questions have been answered. Be sure each child has an opportunity to throw the ball at least once during the game.

- How were David and Jonathan similar?
- Mention one way Jonathan showed his friendship to David.
- Mention one way David showed his friendship to Jonathan.
- How did Jonathan's friendship show true kindness towards David?
- What things did Saul do that demonstrated his hatred towards David?
- What other member in Saul's family saved the life of David?

## MINISTRY TIME

### Preparation

Draw the outline of a person on a sheet of paper. Prepare enough for each child in the class to have one.



### Presentation

Say: **We have learned today that God wants us to show love to our friends. I want you to think of one of your friends who might be having a hard time in their life right now. Maybe they are dealing with bullies at school or the divorce of their parents. Write their name on the top of your paper. Inside the person outline, write or draw ways that you can show love to your friend and help them through this difficult time.** When the children have finished, pray with them for their friends. Also, ask God to help the children show love by doing the things they wrote on the paper.