

LIFE POINT
People can love
their friends.

JONATHAN HELPED DAVID



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God helps all people.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

1 Samuel 14:49; 18:1-4; 20

UNIT VERSE

Love your neighbors.
Leviticus 19:18

WEEKLY VERSE

A friend loves at all times.
Proverbs 17:17

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

February 11



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Decades ago, the acronym *BFF*—Best Friends Forever—became very popular among teenage girls and some adults. The shorthand version of the phrase was a quick way to sign off on electronic devices or social media posts, and it became an endearing way to express someone's devotion and connection to special friends.

Although David and Jonathan lived centuries before texting and social media, they shared a connection that would have earned the *BFF* label. Their friendship started when King Saul brought David to the palace. David defeated Goliath, and Saul had promised wealth and his daughter to the man who killed the Philistine giant (1 Samuel 17:25-58).

As soon as King Saul's son, Jonathan, met David, they became friends. Jonathan was so impressed with David that Jonathan gave him his robe, tunic, sword, bow, and belt—all of the things that indicated Jonathan was heir to the throne of Israel. Essentially, Jonathan was offering David the kingship that rightfully was Jonathan's.

Their friendship was so strong that Jonathan helped David even when it meant defying Jonathan's father, the king! On more than one occasion, that friendship was tested because Saul regarded David as an enemy. Jonathan risked his life to protect David. Now that is a true friend!

Only God could have orchestrated this friendship between a shepherd boy and a prince. How else would the two have met? As you think of your friends and acquaintances, who has God called you to befriend? Pray for God to lead you to form friendships with people who need to know Him and His plan for salvation.



GROUP TIME

- » **Pass a gift.** Play “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations.” Begin passing the gift bag around the circle while the music plays. Tell the preschoolers that when the music stops, the child holding the gift bag should say the name of a friend. Set the gift bag aside without opening it.
- » **Tell the Bible story.** Open a Bible to 1 Samuel 14. Say that David and Jonathan were good friends who cared for each other even when bad things happened. Challenge the boys and girls to listen to hear what Jonathan gave to David.

JONATHAN HELPED DAVID

—Based on 1 Samuel 14:49; 18:1-4; 20

David went to live in King Saul’s palace. He became best friends with King Saul’s son, Jonathan. David and Jonathan promised always to be friends. Jonathan wanted to give something to David to show how much he loved him. Jonathan took off his robe and gave it to David. Jonathan gave David other gifts—a belt, a sword, and a bow for shooting arrows.

Later, Jonathan’s father, King Saul, became angry with David and wanted to hurt him. David told Jonathan, “King Saul wants to hurt me.” Jonathan promised to help David. “I will find out what my father is planning to do,” Jonathan said. “I will tell you if it is safe or not.”

David hid in a field. Jonathan learned that King Saul did want to hurt David. Jonathan was very sad. He knew David would have to leave to be safe.

The next day, Jonathan said goodbye to his friend. Both friends were sad. “We have promised to be friends,” Jonathan said. Then David left, and Jonathan went home.

- » **Review the Bible story.** Show the teaching picture and review the story. Make true or false statements about the story. Guide the children to stand if the statement is true and remain seated if the statement is not true. Use statements such as “David and Jonathan were brothers. David lived in Jonathan’s house. Jonathan gave David a crown.”
- » **Learn Bible verses.** Open the Bible and read the Weekly Verse. Lead the children to repeat it. Say the verse again, two words at a time, then three or more, while the boys and girls echo you. Point to the poster and continue the process with the Unit Verse. Comment that people can love their friends.
- » **Discover the Life Point.** Show the gift bag. Invite a child to remove the tissue paper to see inside. Unfold the paper and read the Life Point. Ask the children to repeat it.
- » **Wrap it up and pray.** Show the “Jonathan Helped David” video. Voice a prayer and thank God for friends who love us.

CHOOSE

your own

SCHEDULE

Decide when to have group time; then select learning activities to use before and/or after group time.



- » Pack Items 14, 36: “Weekly Verses,” “Unit 3 Door Poster”
- » Teaching Picture 11
- » Music
- » Videos
- » Bible, gift bag, tissue paper, copy paper, marker
- » Mark the verse in the Bible at Proverbs 17:17. Write the Life Point on copy paper, fold it, and place it in the bag. Add tissue paper.



BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- › Kids Activity Page
- › Bibles, books about friends, wrapping paper, painter's tape, scissors, paper strips

- › Printables: "Allergy Alert"
- › Serving trays or waxed paper, nonmenthol shave foam, index cards, marker, wet wipes

- › Pack Item 39: "Unit 3 People Figures"
- › Teaching Picture 11
- › Music
- › Towel

- › Bible, chenille stems, scissors, bowls, masking tape, different-colored straws (at least one per child)

WRAP AND READ BOOKS

Mark Proverbs 17:17 in a few Bibles and wrap them before the session. Precut wrapping paper into manageable sizes.

- › Repeat the Life Point as the children complete their activity pages.
- › Lead a child to choose a book to wrap. Assist as the preschoolers tape paper around books.
- › Suggest a child give the wrapped books to a friend to unwrap and read.
- › Remind the children that Jonathan gave gifts to David because he loved his friend. Lead a child to carefully unwrap a Bible.
- › Open to the marked page and read the Weekly Verse.
- › Remark that God helps people to love their friends. (Books)

EXPLORE SHAVING FOAM

Write the name JESUS on several index cards.

- › Place a small amount of shaving foam on a tray. Guide a preschooler use her hands to spread it across the tray.
- › Suggest the boys and girls draw pictures with their fingers of things they do with their friends.
- › Show the cards. Suggest the children spell the name JESUS in the foam. Invite the preschoolers to take turns saying: "Jesus is God's Son."
- › Clean hands with wet wipes as needed. (Nature)

DECIDE WHO IS MISSING

- › Play "Showing Love" as the preschoolers gather.
- › Display the teaching picture and briefly retell today's Bible story.
- › Tell the story again guiding children to use the story figures to play it out.
- › Remark that good friends are wonderful to have, but the greatest friend anyone can have is God's Son, Jesus.
- › Display the figures on a flat surface, then cover them with a towel. Ask the children to close their eyes while you remove one figure.
- › Remove the towel and ask the boys and girls to open their eyes. Challenge them to identify the figure that was removed. (Games)

DESIGN FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS

Cut straws into ½-inch segments. Place straw pieces into bowls. (Older preschoolers can help cut straw segments.)

- › Give each child a chenille stem and show how to string straw segments.
- › Suggest a child make one bracelet to keep and another to share with a friend. When the chenille stem is almost full, help a preschooler twist the ends of the chenille stems together. Use tape to cover any sharp ends.
- › Talk about friends and ask the children to tell the names of some of their friends. Talk about the special friendship that David had with Jonathan.
- › Open the Bible to the Weekly Verse and read it. (Art)

MATCH PICTURES

Cut apart the cards. Place one set in a basket. Place the second set faceup on a table.

- » Suggest a preschooler choose a card from the basket and search the table for the matching card.
- » Relate each item pictured on the cards to today's Bible story.
- » Retell portions of the story as the children complete matches.
- » Remark that people, like Jonathan and David, can love their friends.
- » Play again by laying all cards facedown randomly on the table. (Puzzles)

BUILD A CITY

Search the internet for pictures of cities. Display the missions pictures.

- » Briefly tell about C. W. Pruitt and his mission work in China.
- » Show the children pictures of cities. Point out streets, buildings, and other unique features shown in each photograph.
- » Encourage the preschoolers to use a variety of blocks to construct a city.
- » Suggest a child build a house for his family and friends.
- » Lead the children to drive vehicles around the city. Suggest they play out visiting a friend's home.
- » Comment that missionaries live in different cities with different types of buildings and people.
- » Tell the children that missionaries make new friends wherever they live. Missionaries tell their new friends about Jesus.
- » Say the Life Point. Tell that missionaries can love their friends. (Blocks)

ADDING HEARTS

Cut apart the Friend Cards.

- » Give a child some crayons and a coloring page. Ask questions to review the Bible story as the children color.
- » Open the Bible to the Weekly Verse and repeat it.
- » Offer stickers to a child. Remark that heart shapes often make people think of love.
- » Allow the children to attach the stickers to their coloring pages.
- » Challenge a child to turn her paper over and draw heart shapes.
- » Comment that people can show love to their friends and family.
- » Distribute the Friend Cards and guide preschoolers to find a friend with a matching card. Use the cards to play a matching game as time allows.

CLEAN UP

- » Play "We Can Work" while the children clean. Tell preschoolers to freeze in place when the music stops. Start and stop the music several times. Thank the children for showing love to each other by working together.

» Pack Item 40: "Jonathan & David Cards"

» Basket

» Printable: "Unit 3 Missions"

» Blocks (wooden and interlocking), toy vehicles, people figures, smartphone or tablet

» Pack Item 37B: "Friend Cards"

» Printable: "Jonathan Helped David" Coloring Page

» Bible, crayons, heart-shaped stickers

» Music