

“A Good Friend is Loyal”

Key Verse: Proverbs 17:17

“A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.”

Birthday parties are a lot of fun. It is fun to have your friends over to play games, eat cake and ice cream, and open presents. A party wouldn't be the same without your friends, especially without your best friend. He or she is the one who stays longer than your other friends after the party is over.

I Samuel 19:1-10

Jonathan and David were best friends. Jonathan was a good friend to have. He was a prince. He was brave. He was humble and trusted in God. After David started serving King Saul, Jonathan's dad, Jonathan and David swore an oath of loyalty to each other. They promised to always be there for each other. Over time, King Saul became very jealous of his servant David and wanted him killed. Jonathan knew his father was wrong and told David what his father was planning to do to him. Jonathan chose to be a loyal friend and protected David.

1. Who was Jonathan's best friend?
2. What did King Saul want to do to David?
3. How was Jonathan a loyal friend to David?

Friends are a gift from God. God wants us to choose good friends. Good friends are loyal to each other. Be loyal to your friends during good times and bad times. The best way to get loyal friends is to be one yourself. Be the kind of friend who sticks around when your friend is hurt or needs help. This takes faith in God. Jonathan kept his word and chose to be a loyal friend to David in time of need.

1. What does it mean to be loyal?
2. When can you choose to be a loyal friend?
3. When might it be hard to be a loyal friend?

Ex: It may be hard when your other friends are making fun of or leaving out one of your other friends.

Dad and Mom,

This week covered loyalty. Loyalty is becoming a vague idea in our culture today. From friendships to marriage, people are choosing to be less faithful in their commitment to each other. Help your child to keep his or her commitments from a very young age. Help him or her to see loyalty in your own lives by keeping the promises and commitments that you make as well.

“A Good Friend Helps Me Make Wise Choices”

Key Verse: Proverbs 12:26

“The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.”

It is fun to have a friend over to your house. It is fun to hang out, talk, and play. Friends sometimes help us make choices like: choosing what to do, choosing what game to play, picking out what movie to watch, or choosing what outfit to wear. Good friends encourage us to make choices that honor and please God. Be this kind of friend and help your friends choose to do the right thing.

Daniel 3:8-30

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were close friends. They were good friends to have because they stuck together and did the right thing when everyone else was not. The king of Babylon set up a tall, gold statue. He told all the people that if they didn't bow down and worship the statue, they would be thrown into a big, hot fire. These three friends knew that they should only bow down and worship God. So they stuck together and didn't bow down to the gold statue. God saved them from the fire. Good friends help us make wise choices. We need to choose friends like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

1. What wise choice did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego help each other make?
2. Do you think this was easy?
3. Who is a friend that you have that helps you make wise choices?

Friends are a gift from God. God wants us to choose good friends. Good friends help us to make wise choices. Wise choices are choosing to do the right thing. Sometimes this is very hard. Good friends stand by each other and encourage each other to do the right thing even when it is hard or when no one else is choosing to do the right thing.

1. What is a wise choice?
2. Is it always easy to do the right thing?
3. Have you ever had to help a friend make a wise choice? When?

Dad and Mom,

This week covered choosing friends who help us make wise choices. Talk over with your child about different choices that he or she is facing in his or her phase of life. Help them to work through how to make those choices.

“A Good Friend Helps His Friends”

Key Verse: Ecclesiastes 4:10

“If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But people who are alone when they fall are in real trouble.”

It is fun to go to school and church to see our friends. Life would be very lonely and hard if we didn't have friends to be with. Good friends are there when we need help. Sometimes we need help learning something new. Sometimes we need help cleaning up. Sometimes we need help catching up after we miss a few days of school. Choose to be a good friend and help your friends when life gets busy or hard. Ask them to do the same for you.

Exodus 17:8-16

Moses' friends Aaron and Hur helped him in time of need. The Israelites were at war with the Amalekites. Joshua led the Israelite army out to fight the Amalekite army. Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up a nearby hill to hold up the staff of God in order to win the war. As long as Moses held the staff up high, the Israelites would win. Over time, Moses' arms grew very, very tired. Aaron and Hur saw that Moses was getting tired and chose to help him hold up the staff until sunset. The Israelite army won! Aaron and Hur helped Moses be strong when he was tired and weak. They were good friends to have.

1. Who were Moses' friends?
2. How did Moses need help?

Friends are a gift from God. God wants us to choose good friends. Good friends are there when we need help. Sometimes life can be hard. We may struggle in a certain subject at school. Someone in our family might be very sick. We may not do as well in a sport as we would like to. Hard times are part of life, but good friends are there to help us through those times. You can choose to be a good friend and take time to help your friends when they need you.

1. Who is one of your closest friends?
2. Has he or she ever been through a hard time?
3. How can you or could you help them through a time like this?

Dad and Mom,

This week covered friends helping friends. Help your child think of a way that he or she can help one of his or her friends or a family friend in need. Whether it is sending a card to someone or baking cookies for someone help your child to follow through. Help your child to continually look for ways to help others.

“A Good Friend Helps Me to Know God”

Key Verse: Hebrews 10:24

“Think of ways to encourage one another to do outbursts of love and good deeds.”

As you grow older, you will have many different friends. Some may be Christians and others may not know God. God wants you to be a friend that shares Christ with others. You can do this by being a godly example to your friends. You can invite them to church or church camp. You may be the friend that God uses to help your friends come to know God. How awesome is that!

1. Do you have friends who encourage you to know God? Who?
2. Who is a friend that you can help know God?
3. Is it always easy to encourage your friends to live for God?
4. When may it be hard?

I Timothy 1:18-20

Timothy was a young guy who wanted to be a church leader. He had an older friend named Paul who came alongside him and taught him about God and how to live for Him. Paul took Timothy on several mission trips. Later, Timothy became the leader of the church of Ephesus.

1. Who was Timothy’s friend?
2. How did Paul help Timothy know God?

Friends are a gift from God. God wants us to choose good friends. Good friends help each other to know God. True friends should encourage each other to live for God and to share his love with others.

Dad and Mom,

This week covered friends helping friends to know God. Talk with your child about how to gently share his or her faith with others. Talk about how they act and talk shows others that they love and live for the Lord. If your child has a friend who doesn’t know God, help your child invite them to church.

“A Good Friend Prays For His Friends”

Key Verse: James 5:16a

“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other...”

Your friends need you to pray for them. You need them to pray for you. Pray for your friends when they are sick or in trouble. Pray that your friends will obey and make wise choices. Pray for your friends who do not know God. When you don't know how to pray for your friends, ask them if there is anything you can pray for them.

Colossians 1:9-12

Paul had many friends in the Colossian Church. He wanted his friends to love and to live for God. He wanted them to be wise and to do kind things for others. During tough times, Paul wanted his friends to have patience and strength. Paul knew that God could work in his friends' lives, so he prayed for his friends about these things.

1. What did Paul want his friends to do?
2. So what did Paul do?

Friends are a gift from God. God wants us to choose good friends. A good friend prays for his friends. When you pray before meals or when you do your devotions or when you pray before bed at night, remember to pray for the friends God has given you.

1. Who is a friend that you can pray for? How?
2. Stop right now and pray for them.

Dad and Mom,

This week covered friends praying for friends. Spend some time with your child praying for the friends he or she has or will have. You can also help your child to start praying for his or her spouse if the Lord desires him or her to get married in the future.

“A Good Friend Talks Nicely About Me and Others”

Key Verse: Ephesians 4:29

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Many cartoons, movies, and music that we see and hear have characters that put each other down. Sometimes at school kids can be mean and say unkind things about and to each other. True friends are those who talk nicely about others. When they mess up and say something unkind, true friends say they are sorry. Our friends influence us for good or bad.

1. Do you act the same around all of your friends?
2. Do you feel pressured to act good around some of your friends and bad around others?

Job 2:11-13

Job was a very rich man who loved God. Within a short time, his children were killed, his animals died, he lost all his money, and he developed sores all over his body. Job was very depressed. Job’s friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar came to his house to comfort him. They were true friends. They didn’t make fun of the way he looked with sores all over his body. They didn’t ask him why everything went wrong with his life. They didn’t call their other friends and talk about Job. Instead, they quietly sat with Job as he cried and suffered.

1. Who were Job’s three friends?
2. Did Job’s friends make fun of his situation in life?
3. Did Job choose good friends?

Friends are a gift from God. God wants us to choose good friends. A good friend talks nicely about others. Gossip is talking about someone else in a way that can hurt them or put them down. God does not want us to talk about or to say mean things about others. Instead, he wants us to choose to say nice things about others or to say nothing at all. When your friends are talking unkind, choose to be the person who stops the conversation or who walks away from the situation.

1. What is gossip?
2. Has someone ever said something unkind about you?
3. How did you feel?

Dad and Mom,

This week covered friends talking nicely about others. As you work through this lesson with your child, take the time to share an appropriate story of when someone hurt you with their words when you were younger. Talk about how you felt and how we can forgive each other. Talk about how powerful our words are and that we should choose them carefully.