

Small Group Leader Guide

Virtual Small Group

September Week 1

K3

Today's Bible Story: Better Together (Two people are better than one) • *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*

Today's Bottom Line: Choose your friends carefully.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.* Proverbs 17:17 (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you choose, consider using one of the ice breakers or games on the “Virtual Small Group General Info” page.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, tell the kids that you are going to play a getting-to-know-you game.

Activity:

- Tell your few that you are going to take turns calling out different categories.
- If they fit into one of those categories, they raise their hand, stand up, give a thumbs up, or make whatever gesture you choose.
- Give an example such as: Friends who have little brothers or friends who like dogs
- Let kids take turns calling out a category.
- Choose a kid to start. (For the sake of ease, start with the kid on the top left of your video meeting grid.)
- Ask that kid to call out a category. (If they are struggling to come up with a category prompt them to think of something that they have or something they like to do.)
- Then prompt the rest of the group to indicate if they fit into that category. ***[Make it Personal] Be sure to indicate whether or not you fit into each category too!***
- Once their turn is over, allow kids to pick the next person to call out a category.
- Let each kid have a turn or play until time runs out.
- Allow kids to pass if they don't feel comfortable thinking of a category “on the spot.”
- Extra Category Examples:
 - Friends with cats
 - Left-handed friends

- Friends with blue eyes
- Friends who don't like chocolate
- Friends who love to read
- Friends with dogs
- Friends who love to draw
- Friends who like broccoli
- Friends who love the beach
- Friends who play a sport

What You Say:

“Wow! We have a lot in common. I love learning about my friends. Life is better with friends, isn't it? We're talking about friendship all month long! The writer of today's Scripture tells us that two are better than one! Two people are better than one because they can help each other out, they will always have someone to lean on. It was cool to see all that we have in common but can you imagine what it would be like if we only hung around who friends who were exactly like us? Boring! God gives us opportunities to be friends with all kinds of people! And he gives us opportunities to be a good friend! What does being a good friend look like to you? Do you have someone who is a good friend to you? This week let's remember to ***[Bottom Line]* Choose your friends carefully** and to be a good friend choice too!

Let's pray together before we go and ask God to help us make the wise choice when it comes to choosing friends.

“God, thank You for giving us friends to have things in common with but also allowing us to make all types of friends. Help us to remember to ***[Bottom Line]* choose our friends carefully** and to be a good friend too! Thank You for loving us and for giving us friends who make everything better. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.”

Small Group Leader Guide

Virtual Small Group

September Week 2

K3

Today's Bible Story: We're Going to Be Friends (David and Jonathan) • *1 Samuel 20*
(supporting: *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*)

Today's Bottom Line: Friends love one another.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.* Proverbs 17:17 (NIRV)

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.

What You Need:

- A die (ask kids to bring a die to the Small Group meeting, and/or have one available yourself in case someone doesn't have one)

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you choose, consider using one of the ice breakers or games on the "Virtual Small Group General Info" page.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, give the instructions for the activity.

Activity:

- If you're using a video meeting app that allows you to see each person's name at the bottom of their video window, ask kids to make sure their name is correct. (For kids using a parent or sibling's account, they might be signed on with that person's name in the video window.)
- Explain that the group is going to play a game to help them get to know their friends!
- Inform the kids that you will call out their name and when you do, they'll roll their die or (ask you to roll the die and tell them the number they rolled).
- Read the question that corresponds with the number rolled (see "Questions" below).
- After the kid who rolled answers the question, let them call on someone else. (Keep track of who was called so that everyone gets a turn.)
- If they roll a number and both questions for that number have been asked, let them roll again.
- Continue until every kid has had a chance to roll and answer a question.
- Questions:
 - Rolled a 1
 - What's your favorite TV show?
 - Which do you like better, summer or winter and why?

- Rolled a 2
 - What's your favorite ice cream flavor?
 - Which do you like better: recess or lunch?
- Rolled a 3
 - Do you have a pet? (If not, what pet would you want to have?)
 - What is your favorite food to eat for breakfast?
- Rolled a 4
 - What is your favorite thing about school?
 - Tell us one thing about your home.
- Rolled a 5
 - Tell us one thing about your family.
 - If you had 15 extra minutes to do anything, what would you do?
- Rolled a 6
 - What is your favorite game to play (outside or inside)?
 - What is your favorite thing to do after school?

What You Say:

“That was so fun! I love getting to know more about you and for you to get to know the other friends in our group! In our story today, we heard about two friends who showed love to each other in big ways. How did Jonathan show love to David? *(He gave him his royal equipment, like his belt, sword, bow and arrows. He protected David when the king was trying to kill him)* Jonathan could have held onto his wealth and power, but he chose to use it to show his friend David how much he loved him, because **[Bottom Line] friends love one another.**

This month's verse talks about how friends love, too! This month's verse is Proverbs 17:17. *A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes. (Proverbs 17:17, NIRV)* Love is an action. When we choose to encourage, support, forgive, keep our promises, share our stuff, we're loving our friends. What are some other ways we can love our friends? *(Allow a few kids to answer the question. encourage them to get specific about how they can love their friends.)* Great job, friends! Let's wrap up by praying for our friends.

“Dear God, thank You for reminding us that friends love at all times! Thank You for sending Jesus, the best friend ever. Help us be kind and patient and put others first because **[Bottom Line] friends love one another.** In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.”

Small Group Leader Guide

Virtual Small Group

September Week 3

K3

Today's Bible Story: Friend Like Me (Elijah and Elisha) • *1 Kings 19:14-21; 2 Kings 2:1-15*

Today's Bottom Line: Friends encourage one another.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.* Proverbs 17:17 (NIRV)

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.

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you choose, consider using one of the ice breakers or games on the “Virtual Small Group General Info” page.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, give the instructions for the activity you will do.
- If you have not watched the Bible story together briefly recap the story of Elijah and Elisha from 1 Kings 19:14-21 and 2 Kings 2:1-15.

Activity:

- Tell kids that you are going to read some parts of the story and when they hear the name ELIJAH they raise their hand. When they hear the name ELISHA they put up a fist.
- Point out the differences between the two names, emphasizing the endings (“JAH” and “SHA”).
 - You can also point out that “J” comes before “S” in the alphabet, just like Elijah was a prophet (person who spoke for God) BEFORE he found Elisha.
- Use the first statement as an example to make sure kids understand the game
- EliJAH (*hand*) was a prophet who spoke for God. He was discouraged, feeling like he was the only prophet left.
- Check for understanding.
- God sent him to find EliSHA (*fist*) to be the next prophet.
- Elijah (*hand*) found Elisha (*fist*) working in the field.
- When Elijah (*hand*) asked him to follow him, Elisha (*fist*) agreed.
- From then on, everywhere Elijah (*hand*) went, Elisha (*fist*) followed, watching, and learning.
- The two men traveled to Gilgal. They knew that soon God was going to take Elijah (*hand*) up to heaven.

- Elijah (*hand*) told Elisha (*fist*) to stay there.
- Elisha (*fist*) replied, "I will not leave you." This happened two more times until they arrived at the Jordan River.
- At the river's edge, Elijah (*hand*) struck the water with his coat. The water parted, and they walked across on dry ground.
- Elijah (*hand*) stopped to encourage his friend, Elisha (*fist*).
- They walked farther. Then, a chariot and horses made of fire appeared and separated Elijah (*hand*) and Elisha (*fish*).
- Elisha (*fist*) watched as Elijah (*hand*) was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind.
- Elisha (*fist*) picked it up. He hurried back to the river, struck the water, and walked across on dry ground!

What You Say:

"I love that story, even though the two names can be super confusing. Elijah (*Hold up hand*) was a prophet who told other people about God. But he felt alone. Then, God sent him to find EliSHA (*hold up fist*). The two men traveled together and EliSHA watched and learned all he could from EliJAH. Before Elijah was taken up to heaven to be with God, Elisha said, 'You have been like a father to me.' They were good friends who encouraged each other. And we can be good friends, too, when we remember that **[Bottom Line] friends encourage one another.**" Let's pray together before we go.

"God, thank You so much for giving us a great example of true friendship through Elijah and Elisha. I pray that we can use our words and actions to encourage others in our lives this week. Thank You for the friends that we have and that we get to spend time with them even when we can't be together physically. Amen."

Small Group Leader Guide

Virtual Small Group

September Week 4

K3

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. They are there to help when trouble comes.* Proverbs 17:17 (NIRV)

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.

What You Need:

- “Conflict Situations” Activity Page, “Emojis” Activity Pages; either print the pages or have them open on your computer before the Small Group session begins. (If you're not printing the pages, you can use the screen share function of your meeting app.)

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you choose, consider using one of the ice breakers or games on the “Virtual Small Group General Info” page.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, briefly talk about what you have watched, letting kids share any quick thoughts they have.
- If you have not watched the video, briefly review today's Bible story from John 21:1-19.

Activity

- Hold up the different “Emojis” pages (or use the screen share function of your meeting app).
- Guide kids to practice showing each emotion using various facial expressions.
- Encourage them to get creative and dramatic with it!
- Read a situation from the “Conflict Situations” page and ask kids to show you how they would feel in that situation.
- Let the kids respond by showing you what face best fits how they think they would feel in that particular situation.
- As best you can, hold up each emoji page that corresponds to the kids' facial expression. (This could get pretty comical if you're not sure what the faces are that your kids are making or if they're all making a bunch of different faces!)
- Before moving on to the next situation, lead the kids in a quick discussion (just a sentence or two) about potential solutions to the conflict.

What You Say:

“Thank you for sharing about how you would feel if someone hurt you in each of these different situations. When someone hurts you, it’s normal to experience lots of emotions like those we just talked about. But the truth is when you choose NOT to forgive, you continue to hurt yourself. Just like Peter and Jesus talked it out, it’s important to learn how to talk it out with your friends so you can fix your relationship. It’s also important to learn to be wise in certain situations. If a friend repeatedly hurts you, it’s okay to forgive them and then stop hanging out with them to protect yourself from being constantly hurt. ***[Bottom Line]* Friends forgive one another.**”

“Dear God, thank You for the friends we have. We pray that You will help us forgive our friends when they hurt us. We also pray that we can practice asking for forgiveness when we have done something to hurt a friend. Thank You for all You do for us and for being our friend. Amen.”