

David and Jonathan

(1 Samuel 18:1-9; 19:1-10; 20)

Introduction

Who is one of your best friends? Why is he or she a good friend? What makes a person a good friend? If you were looking for a friend, what kind of a person would you be looking for? [Teacher, let the children respond.] What kind of a friend should you be?

Our Memory Verse today is Proverbs 17:17. Let's take a minute to look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 together to find out what love really is. [Teacher, read the verse and jot on the board some of the characteristics of a good friend: patient, kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, etc.] These are the qualities that make a person a good friend.

In our Bible story today, we'll find out about David and Jonathan, who made a promise with each other to be loyal friends.

Opening Prayer

Father, teach us this morning what it means to be a good friend. Give us a desire to always be faithful and true to our friends, to never lie to them or be mean to them. Teach us how to love other people in the same way You love us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

A friend loves at all times. (Proverbs 17:17 NKJ)

Lesson

Last week we learned that God used David, a shepherd boy, to kill the Philistine's secret weapon. Do you remember what that weapon was? Yes, David killed the big, mean giant, Goliath, with a single stone and his sling shot! How was that possible? It wasn't that David was so strong or smart; God gave him the courage to face the giant and it was God who directed that stone to hit Goliath right between the eyes!

We learned that we can rely upon God as we face our problems in life. The battle is the Lord's; He will give us the strength; power and wisdom we need in life.

Well, after David's victory over Goliath, King Saul asked David to come and live in the palace with him and his family.

1 Samuel 18:2

From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home.

And there, in the king's household, David became best friends with Jonathan, King Saul's son. What does the Bible say about Jonathan and David's friendship?

1 Samuel 18:3

And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself.

A covenant is a promise to be true. David and Jonathan were best buddies and they promised to always be faithful friends.

Evidently David made a good impression on King Saul, too, because Saul gave David a very high position as a military commander.

1 Samuel 18:5

Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike.

Everyone loved David. One time when Saul and David returned from a battle, Saul heard a group of women celebrating David's victories in song.

1 Samuel 18:6

When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals.

All the women made up songs about what a great hero David was.

1 Samuel 18:7

So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

This made King Saul jealous of David.

1 Samuel 18:8

This was their song: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!"

Saul thought the women were giving David credit for killing tens of thousands of soldiers while only giving him credit for killing one thousand. Saul thought they were saying that David was greater than he was, and this made him jealous of David!!

Have you ever been jealous of someone? Do you know what jealousy is? It is feeling unhappy – even angry – because you don't have something that someone else has. How do you react when someone says good things about your friend, but they don't compliment you? Do you know anyone that always seems to get new clothes or new toys, while you never seem to get anything new? Do you have a friend or a brother or sister that always gets better grades than you? Is there a new baby in your home who seems to get more attention than you? These are all situation that can make you jealous. Have you ever felt jealous? [Teacher, let the children respond.]

Saul was so jealous of David, that he wanted to kill him. Soon he became so jealous and hateful towards David that he tried to get his own son to murder him or even his servants.

1 Samuel 19:1-2

Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David. But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David, told him what his father was planning. "Tomorrow morning," he warned him, "you must find a hiding place out in the fields."

Even though King Saul was jealous and hateful towards David, his son Jonathan wasn't like that at all. He was David's best friend. Jonathan begged his father not to do it.

1 Samuel 19:4-5

The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him. "The king must not sin against his servant David," Jonathan said. "He's never done anything to harm you. He has always helped you in any way he could. Have you forgotten about the time he risked his life to kill the Philistine giant and how the LORD brought a great victory to all Israel as a result? You were certainly happy about it then. Why should you murder an innocent man like David? There is no reason for it at all!"

Jonathan tried to show his father how wrong he was to try to kill David. David was probably one of King Saul's most loyal and helpful men. He had killed Goliath and defeated Saul's enemies. At first Saul listened to Jonathan and promised not to kill David. But his jealous anger was so great that it wasn't long before Saul allowed his jealousy to control him again, and again he tried to take David's life.

1 Samuel 20:1

David now fled from Naioth in Ramah and found Jonathan. "What have I done?" he exclaimed. "What is my crime? How have I offended your father that he is so determined to kill me?"

Jealousy is a terrible thing. It puts murder in your heart. There are times when all of us have feelings of jealousy. But we need to make sure it doesn't grow in our hearts. You can stop the sin of jealousy with God's help. When you realize that you are even a little jealous of your friend, what do you think you should do? Confess it to God; admit that you have those wicked feelings of jealousy. Ask God to help you to stop being jealous. Do you know the very best way to stop being jealous of someone else? Stop comparing yourself to that other person. Stop wanting "things" others have. Stop feeling sorry for yourself. And begin to pray for the wellbeing of that other person. Look for good in that person and compliment him or her for those

good traits you see in them. God will give you power to stop being jealous.

Saul's jealousy of David had become so bad that he tried over and over again to kill him. Jonathan tried to talk to his father...

1 Samuel 20:32-33

"But why should he be put to death?" Jonathan asked his father. "What has he done?" Then Saul hurled his spear at Jonathan, intending to kill him. So at last Jonathan realized that his father was really determined to kill David.

Saul's jealous anger turned against his own son and he tried to kill him, too. There was no doubt in Jonathan's mind; he knew for sure that his father had made up his mind to kill David.

Now think about this: It never crossed Jonathan's mind to be jealous of David even though, if he helped David live, it might spoil his own chances at becoming king. Instead of being jealous like his father, Jonathan tried to be a peace maker between David and his father, Saul. Then, when he realized Saul was determined to kill David, he helped David escape from Saul.

You have a choice to either be jealous or to show God's love for others. With God's help, you can be a good friend, just like Jonathan. Ask Him to help you choose to show His love to your friends.

Closing Prayer

Friends are a gift from You, Father. Thank You for giving us friends. Help us never to take advantage of them or take them for granted.

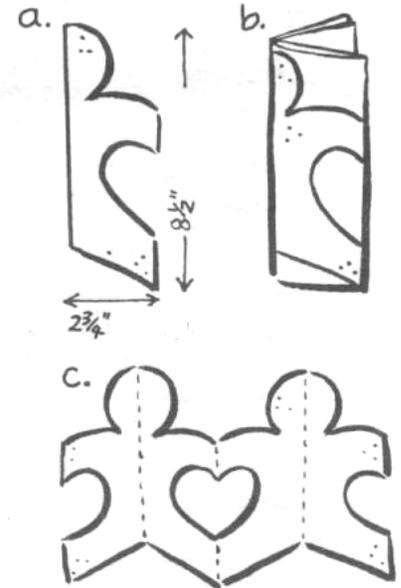
We want to always be true and faithful to our friends and love them with the kind of love Jesus has for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Best Friends

1. Make several cardboard patterns as shown in sketch a.
2. Give each child a sheet of white construction paper, a pencil and a pair of scissors.
3. Children fold the paper in half and in half again as in. (See sketch b.)
4. Children place pattern on the folded paper so the straight edge of pattern is on folded side and other edge of pattern touches other side of paper.
5. Children trace, cut, and open their paper to discover the surprise design (see sketch c).
6. As the children work talk to them about friendship. Ask, questions such as the following:
 - How do you know when others are your friends? (They smile at you. They play with you. They help you. They share with you.)
 - What do you do to let someone know you want to be his or her friend? (Talk to the person. Invite him or her to play. Share your lunch with the person.)
 - How did Jonathan show David that he was a good friend?



- What does the surprise design make you think of?

Game Center

Buddy Relay

1. Write each word of the Memory verse (Proverbs 17:17) on separate index cards, making two sets of verse cards using two different colors of cards.
2. Use masking tape to make start and finish lines on the floor on opposite sides of the room.
3. Mix up cards, keeping sets separate.
4. Divide class into two teams.
5. Teams line up behind the start line.
6. Place a mixed set of cards at the front of each line.
7. Call out the name of a body part (elbow, shoulder, head, and hand).
8. First two children in each line carry one of the word cards between them, using the named body part, to the finish line.
9. Children leave card at the finish line and walk quickly back to start of line.



10. Play continues in this manner until all cards are brought to the finish line. Children put cards in the correct verse order and then say verse out loud.

Or, use the following questions in another game of your choice:

1. What are some things friends like to do together? (Go to the park.)
2. Why was David known as a big hero? (He defeated Goliath. He won victories for Israel's army.)
3. How did Jonathan show he was David's friend? What did Jonathan do to show God's love to his good friend, David?
4. Why do you think that Jonathan wasn't jealous that David would become the next king?
5. What can you do to show God's love?
6. What are some ways you can be a good friend to someone? (Invite a new kid to play. Share lunch or toys with another kid. Only say kind things about others.)
7. How has a friend helped you?
8. When are times kids might need a good friend? (When they are in a new class. When they need help with homework. When they are sad. When other people make fun of them.)
9. When are times it is difficult to be a good friend? (When I want first choice. When my friends don't play fair. When I have a bad day.)
10. How do you know when others are your friends? (They smile at you. They play with you. They help you. They share with you.)
11. What do you do to let someone know you want to be his or her friend? (Talk to the person. Invite him or her to play. Share lunch with the person.)