

Friendship means using your words and actions to show others you care.



Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

DAY

1

A Good Friend Is . . .

All month long we are talking about friendship which is using your words and actions to show others you care. Flip over this page and color the picture of the two friends. As you are doing this, think of all the things you like about your friends. Write or draw these things all around the picture. Try and fill up as much space as you can!

Know that God wants you to choose good friends!

DAY

2

Two Are Better Than One

This week we learned all about friendship and how God wants us to have friends. **Ask an adult to help you look up Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.** These verses tell us that two people are better than one. They can help each other with everything. Can you think of something that is much better when you do it with someone else? Perhaps playing hide-and-go-seek or Go Fish? We are not meant to do things alone all the time. Friends make life better! Take time to say the prayer below. After, invite someone to play a game with you.

Dear God, Thank You for the friends that I have in my life. Help me to be a great friend to them. Amen.

Look at God's creations all around you.

DAY

3

Be A Good Friend

Grab a piece of paper and some crayons. At the top of the page rainbow-write the words **GOOD FRIEND**. Then, I want you to divide your paper into three different parts and write one word in each section: **SCHOOL, PLAYGROUND, NEIGHBORHOOD**. I want you to think of a way that you can be a good friend at **SCHOOL**, on the **PLAYGROUND** and in your **NEIGHBORHOOD** and draw a picture showing it.

Look for ways that you can be a good friend this week.

DAY

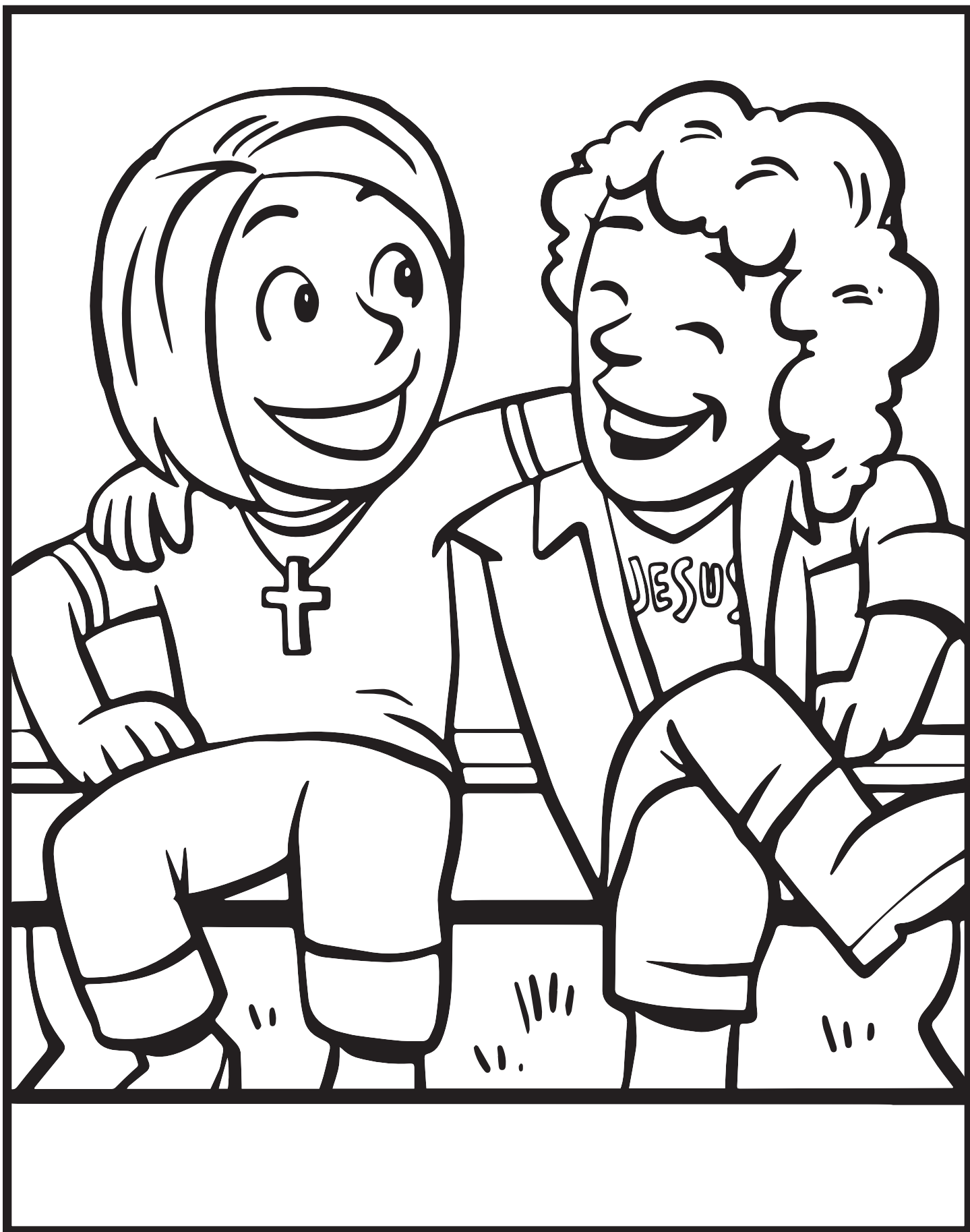
4

Attract Friends

Ask an adult to help you gather a balloon, some scrap paper, and a marker. Tear the paper up into tiny pieces and place it on a flat surface. Now have an adult blow up your balloon, tie it, and draw a smiley face on it. Rub the balloon on your head for about 30 seconds and then roll it over the tiny pieces of paper. **What happens?** The tiny pieces of paper (friends) are attracted to the balloon (YOU)! It's the same way with friendship. When we are a good friend to others, they are attracted to us and want to be our friend as well!

Ask God to help you attract the right kind of friends.

Choose your friends carefully.



Friendship means using your words and actions to show others you care.

WEEK
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DAY 1

Read Proverbs 13:20

Let's talk about friendship! Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care. Write down the names of a few of your friends.

Did you know that God has something to say about the friends we choose? Friends can play a big role in the decisions we make. If a friend starts to laugh or say unkind things about someone else, you might join in too. If a friend asks you a question when the teacher is talking, you'll probably be tempted to answer and miss your teacher's instructions.

Wise friends can help you become wiser. Let's choose friends who are kind, helpful, forgiving, encouraging, and patient. When you do, you'll be tempted (in a good way!) to be more kind, helpful, forgiving, encouraging, and patient right back! So, remember, choose your friends carefully.

Spend some time today thanking God for the friends on your list. Ask God to help you be a good friend so that you can help others grow wise too.

DAY 2

Read Proverbs 12:26

Let's pretend it is ice cream day at school. You happily line up, already tasting that creamy cold sugary goodness on your tongue. When you finally get to the front, you spot the last little container of chocolate—your favorite. You grab that cup with the small wooden spoon and smile widely all the way back to your seat.

What do you think is more important? The flavor of ice cream we choose or the friends we choose? Friendships are way more important than ice cream flavors. Why? Because friends have influence. Influence means to have an effect on someone's character, development, or behavior.

We need to choose friend who will be a good influence. That's why it's important to choose friends who will lead us in the right direction. So when you think about your friends, remember how careful you are about the ice cream you choose and be intentional with friendships too!

Spend some time today thanking God for ice cream and friendships! Ask Him to help you choose friends that will lead you in the right direction.

Choose your friends carefully.

DAY 3

Read Proverbs 22:24-25

What happens if you take a bottle or can of soda pop and shake it up before you open it? Yep, better get out of the way! The carbonation inside will cause that soda to spew out the minute you release the pressure by opening the top of that bottle or can!

Do you know anyone who seems to get mad pretty easily? They respond to things almost like that bottle of soda pop. If something happens to shake them up, they might just blow up at all the people around them.

That's why it's important to choose your friends carefully. Because we pick up the behaviors of the people around us, good and bad! Spending time with someone who gets angry easily might mean that you become someone who blows up all the time too.

Write the words of today's verse on a small scrap of paper and tape it around a can or bottle of soda pop in your fridge. When someone in your family decides to drink it, share the verse and talk about why it's important to choose your friends carefully. But don't shake it up first!

Ask God to help you choose friends that aren't easily angered.

DAY 4

Read Proverbs 18:24

Do you know what the word faithful means? Faithful means loyal, constant, and steady. A faithful friend is a friend who sticks by you, a friend who is there when things are awesome and when things are hard.

Do you have a faithful friend? A friend who cheers you up when you're sad? A friend who encourages you when you're down? A friend who makes you laugh when it's the very last thing you want to do?

When it comes to the friends we choose, let's look for friends who stick with us, no matter what. Let's choose friends who are always there, ready to help when we need it most. And remember, to have good friends, you need to be a good friend. Be a loyal and steady friend who can be counted on too.

Interview a parent or another adult today and ask the following questions:

1. Who is your best friend and why?
2. Read Proverbs 18:24 together. What do you think this verse means?
3. What does it mean to be a faithful friend?

Pray today with the person you interviewed and ask God to help you be a faithful friend and to choose faithful friends too.

WHAT MAKES SOMEONE A GOOD FRIEND?

[illegible]

Even if you already saw it at church,
feel free to check it out again!

3. You'd like to know: _____



Day 2

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

As you read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, underline all of the numbers in the passage. Then go back and circle any number greater than one.

3 > 2 > 1

It's not that being alone is bad—and sure, there are times when working alone or spending time by yourself is important! But when it comes to most of life's challenges, together is better!



Day 3

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 covers a few different scenarios where having a friend is super important:

- 1) When you fall down
- 2) When you're cold
- 3) When you're feeling overpowered

These scenarios could also be described this way:

- 1) When you're hurting (physically or emotionally)
- 2) When you're in need
- 3) When someone or something is threatening you

Which of those can you relate to? When have you been hurting, or in need of something, or feeling threatened by someone, and a friend jumped in to help? Take a minute to talk to God about it. Then thank God for that friend and ask Him to help you to be a friend like that too.

Day 4

Remember yesterday when you prayed to thank God for a friend who was there for you when you needed them? Now it's time to thank that friend.

Before you do, think through the situation again. Take a minute to remember how you felt, and how those feelings changed when your friend showed up for you. Think about the sacrifice they made: of their time or energy.

Then either write them a thank you note (or email or text), give them a call or video call, or go visit them. No matter how you choose to thank your friend for their help, just make sure they know how much you appreciate their friendship and how it inspires you to be a good friend too.



Day 5

Make a list of the best qualities of a few of your closest friends. Maybe they make you laugh, or they listen when you're having a bad day. List at least five things that make them a good friend to you.

Now, flip the script. Write five things that you think are true of you when it comes to friendship. What would your friends say about you as a friend?

Compare the two lists—do you notice any differences?

- ✓ Have you chosen good friends—people who are kind, encouraging, and loyal?
- ✓ Are you being a good friend to others?
- ✓ Would people say you are selfish or selfless?

If you realize that you haven't been as good of a friend as others have been to you, pick one thing from your friends' list that you can work on this week. On the flipside, if you feel like you've been a good friend but maybe your friends haven't been so kind to you, maybe it's time to reach out and try to make a new friend! (Making new friends doesn't mean giving up on your current ones, but everyone needs someone in their corner who will have their back!)