

David and Jonathan

Choose Your Character
Lesson 4

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of David and Jonathan's friendship.
- The children will identify one quality of a best friend.
- The children will state one way that their friends can help them do what is right.

Lesson Text

1 Samuel 20

Scripture Memory Verse

Jonathan loved David just as he loved himself.

1 Samuel 20:17 (NIRV)

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Word Search

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Friends Forever

Craft: Arrows of a Friend

Scripture Memory: Put It There

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



David and Jonathan

Word Search

The children will preview today's lesson by doing a word search of key words from today's Bible Story.

Materials

For each child:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Explain that in today's lesson they are going to learn about the friendship between David and Jonathan. Tell them that in this activity they will look for words from today's Bible Story. Show them your sample.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A and pencils. Encourage the children to work with a friend or in a small group.
3. Circulate among the children to offer help and encouragement.
4. When the children are finished, have them write the names of the friends whom they worked with on their worksheet.

Teacher Tips

- Make sure new or visiting children find a small group.
- Play contemporary Christian music in the background and offer light snacks to create a friendlier atmosphere.
IMPORTANT: Obtain parental permission before offering the children food to eat.



B

David and Jonathan

Choose Your Character
Lesson 4

S

Friends Forever

The children will tell the story of David and Jonathan's friendship as they actively listen to this Bible Story.

Materials

For each child:

- glue stick
- pencil

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each child
- Page C, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the circles from all the copies of Reproducible Page B. Sort them into four piles of the same pictures.
2. Practice presenting this story with enthusiasm and energy.

Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 20. Tell the children that today's Bible Story comes from the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel. Remind the children that last week's lesson also came from this book. Explain that today's story is about a remarkable friendship between two men, David and Jonathan. Use these questions to prepare the children for today's story.

- How do you know if someone is your best friend?
- Would you ever forget a best friend? Why or why not?
- What kinds of things are you willing to do for your best friend?

Ask the children if they have ever heard of David and Jonathan. Explain that David was a shepherd who loved God and served King Saul. Jonathan was the king's son, which means he was a prince!

- Have you ever been friends with someone who was famous or who was related to someone famous? (Share from your own experience, if applicable.)
- What would it be like to have the son or daughter of the President (or King or Prime Minister) as your best friend? Would it be easy or hard? Why?

Tell the children that you are going to describe a situation and then ask them some questions.

Imagine that your best friend was the son (or daughter) of the principal of your school. Imagine that one day you find out that the principal is going to be fired and your father is going to get his job.

- How do you think that your friend would feel about you?
- How do you think your friend would feel about your father?
- Do you think that this would affect your friendship?

Presenting the Bible Story

In today's Bible Story, David knew that God had chosen him to be the new king and that one day he would take the place of Jonathan's father—King Saul. Even though Jonathan knew this, he still loved David and pledged to be his friend no matter what happened. Jonathan loved David as much as he loved himself. In this story, you will hear about a time when Jonathan risked his life to save David's.

Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page C and the glue sticks to the children. Tell them that as you tell this story, they will glue a picture that goes with each part of the story in the correct circles on their pages.

Hold up the first circle with the picture of David talking with Jonathan. *The Bible says that King Saul became so jealous of David that he wanted to kill David. When David found out about it, he ran to his friend Jonathan and asked, "Why is your father trying to kill me?" Jonathan did not know about this plan. He told David he was sure it was not true, but he would find out just in case. David and Jonathan made a plan. David would hide in the field while Jonathan went to talk to his father, the king. If Jonathan found out that his father really did want to kill David, Jonathan would come out to the field and shoot three arrows to a certain place so that David would know that he was in danger. If not, Jonathan would shoot them to another place so that David would know that he was safe. Before David and Jonathan left, they made a promise to each other and to God that they and their families would be friends forever.* Distribute the first circles and have the children glue them on the first circle on their pages.



David and Jonathan

Hold up the second circle with the picture of King Saul. *At dinner that night, King Saul noticed that David was not at the table, but he did not say anything. But, the next day, when David didn't come to dinner again, King Saul asked his son Jonathan, "Where is David?" Jonathan told his father that David had a family matter to take care of. The Bible says that King Saul became very angry at Jonathan. "You have been disobedient and evil! I know you are on David's side! You will never be king as long as David is alive! So bring David to me for he must die!" Jonathan said, "Why? What has David done that you would want to kill him?" But Saul threw his spear at Jonathan! Jonathan left. He was very angry because he knew his father wanted to kill David. He didn't eat any food that day because he was sad about how his father was treating David.* Distribute the second set of circles and have the children glue them on their pages.

Hold up the third circle with the picture of Jonathan shooting the arrows. *The next day Jonathan went out to the field. He took a servant boy with him. Jonathan shot the arrows to the place where David would know that he was in danger. Jonathan told the boy to run and find the arrows. When the boy returned, Jonathan sent him back to town.* Distribute the third circle and have the children glue them on their pages.

Hold up the last circle with the picture of David and Jonathan saying good-bye. *When the boy had left, David came out from hiding in the field. He bowed down before Jonathan three times with his face to the ground. He knew that his life was in danger and that Jonathan had risked his life to warn him. Both of the friends cried and embraced each other, but David cried the most. Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace. We have promised before the Lord to always be friends. We will always be kind to each other and to our families." Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.* Distribute the last set of circles and have the children glue them on their pages. Distribute the pencils and have the children write their names on their pages.

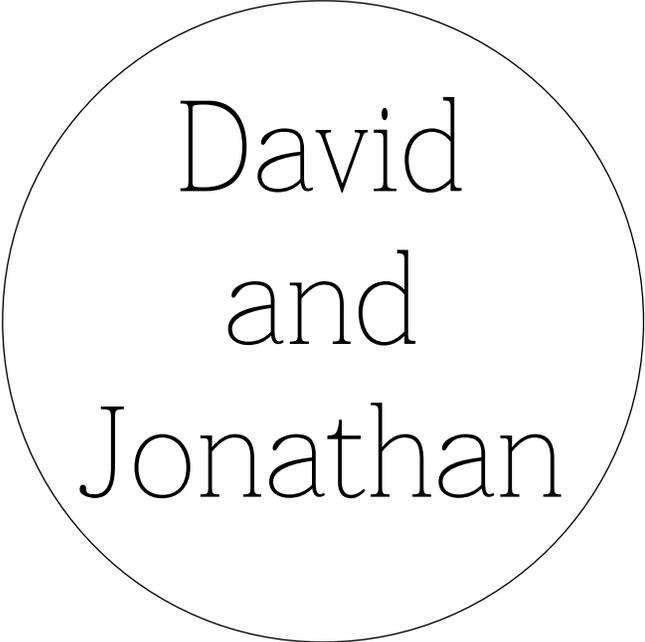
Share and Tell

Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that Jonathan risked his life to warn David. Remind the children that both David and Jonathan loved God and wanted to do what God wanted. Jonathan knew that his father was not obeying God by his treatment of David. Jonathan believed that God had a plan for David and he stayed a true friend.

Ask the children if they can think of a friend that they could tell this story to this week. Close with a prayer for the children to have great friendships in the church like David and Jonathan had.

Teacher Tips

- Think of additional ways to enhance your presentation of this story.



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and
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David and Jonathan

Arrows of a Friend

The children will make a set of arrows to remind them of the qualities of a good friendship.

Materials

For each child:

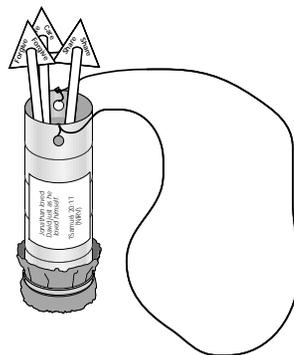
- 3 straws, non-bending
- 1 cardboard tube, 4½"
- 1 piece of yarn, 24"
- 1 medium rubber band
- 1 piece of brown paper, 4" x 4"
- glue stick
- scissors
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- scissors
- single hole punch
- glue stick

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child



Preparation

1. Cut out the text boxes from the copies of Reproducible Page D. Keep the remainder of the page for the children to cut out.
2. Cut a 24" piece of yarn for each child.
3. Cut a 4" x 4" piece of brown paper for each child.
4. For each child, prepare a cardboard tube, see Figure A, as follows:
 - A. Punch two holes across from each other in one end of the cardboard tube.
 - B. Tie each end of yarn to one of the holes in the tube, making a shoulder strap.
 - C. Glue the text box to the side of the tube.
5. At both ends of the straws, cut two ½" slits, as shown in Figure B.
6. Make a sample craft to show the children.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story today, you are learning about the friendship between David and Jonathan. These two men promised each other that they would be friends*

forever and they showed their friendship to each other in many different and special ways. Both Jonathan and David risked their lives for each other and proved their love for each other through courage, devotion and loyal friendship. Today, you will make a craft to remind you of the way that Jonathan warned David that he was in danger. Show the children your sample, demonstrating how to wear the craft over your shoulder. Read the words written on each arrow. Explain that the three arrows will remind them of the qualities of a good friendship.

2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D and the crayons. Have the children color the three arrowheads and the three feathers.
3. Distribute the scissors and straws you prepared. Have the children cut out their arrowheads and feathers. Have them slip the arrowheads into the slits at one end of the straws. Then have them slip the feathers into the slits at the other end of the straws. See Figure C.
4. Distribute rubber bands and pieces of brown paper. Using the rubber bands, help the children secure the paper around the end of the tube opposite the yarn. See Figure D.
5. Have the children write their names on their crafts. They can put their arrows inside their tubes.

Conclusion

Remind the children of the qualities that will help them be good friends to others. Ask the children what quality is most important to them. Close with a prayer asking God to help them be good friends to others.

Teacher Tips

- Substitute brown paper bags or brown fabric for the brown paper.
- Toilet paper tubes are perfect for this craft.



David and Jonathan

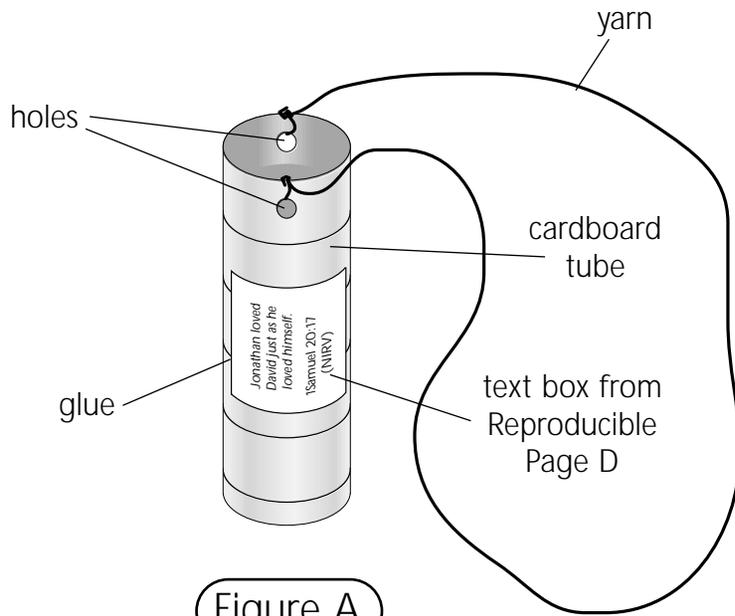


Figure A

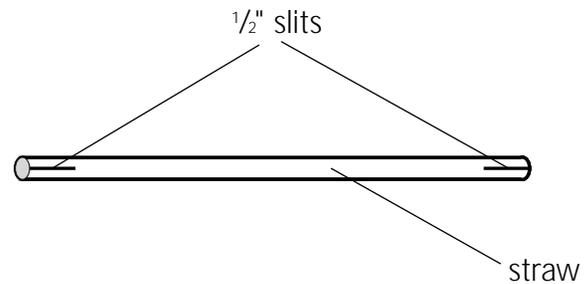


Figure B

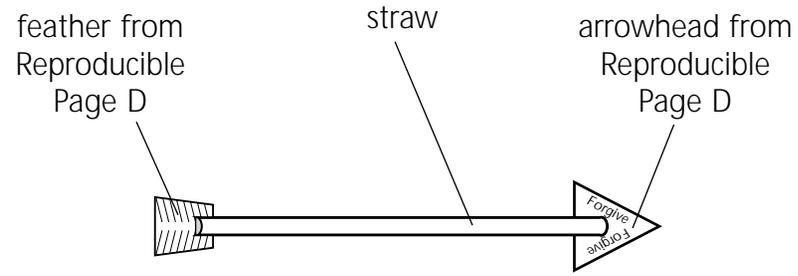


Figure C

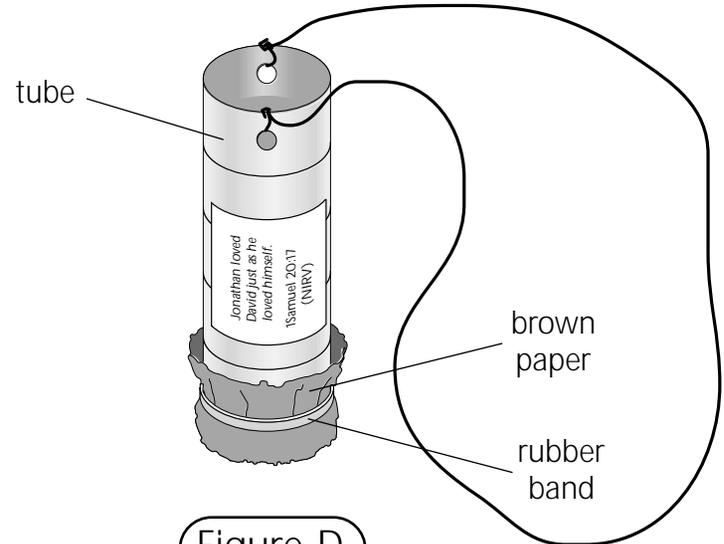


Figure D

David and Jonathan

Put It There

The children will learn the memory verse as they participate in this fun activity.

Scripture Memory Verse

Jonathan loved David just as he loved himself.
1 Samuel 20:17 (NIRV)

Materials

No additional materials are needed.

Preparation

Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story today, you are learning about the friendship between David and Jonathan. These two men promised each other that they would be friends forever and they showed their friendship to each other in many different and special ways. Both Jonathan and David risked their lives for each other and proved their love through courage, devotion and loyal friendship. In your Scripture Memory Verse, you will learn what the Bible says about their friendship.*
2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say the verse to the children three times as they follow along. Point to each word as you say it. Ask them to say it together with you three more times. Ask for volunteers to say the verse together with you.
3. Tell the children that David and Jonathan had a very close friendship. Jonathan risked his own life to save David's life—and David did the same. Ask the children to say some ways that friends show their love for each other. (Answers may include: hugs, handshakes, holding hands, sharing, helping, listening, etc.)
4. Have the children sit in a circle. Tell them that they will practice saying today's Scripture Memory Verse as they pass some "friendship" around the circle.
5. Explain that each child will say one word of the Scripture Memory Verse as they pass a handshake to the child on their right. Begin by saying "Jonathan" and then shake the hand of

the child to your right. Go around until all the verse, including the reference, is complete. Repeat this by having the last child start the next round, sending the handshake around to the left and saying one word at a time.

6. For the next round, have each child in the circle repeat what the child before him said and then add the next word, e.g. Jonathan, Jonathan loved, Jonathan loved David, etc. Do this until the verse is complete and then reverse direction. Repeat this as many times as needed to help the children master the verse.
7. For the final round, have each child in the circle say the entire verse from memory and then pass the handshake to the child next to him who will say the verse from memory until every child has said the verse from memory. Encourage the children to help each other if they forget a word.

Conclusion

Ask the children if they can think of a friend that they love like Jonathan loved David. Close with a prayer thanking God for the friends he gives us.

Teacher Tips

- To vary the activity, have the children pass other friendship gestures as well, such as a "hug" or a "high five."
- It is possible that some children may question the nature of Jonathan's love for David. Assure the children that these two men shared a pure friendship that was based on their love for God and desire to please him with their lives.
- If possible, have the children wash their hands at the end of this activity.

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David and Jonathan

Jonathan loved
David just as he
loved himself.

1 Samuel 20:17 (NIRV)

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of David and Jonathan's friendship.
- The children will identify one quality of a best friend.
- The children will state one way that their friends can help them do what is right.

Lesson Text

1 Samuel 20

Scripture Memory Verse

Jonathan loved David just as he loved himself.

1 Samuel 20:17 (NIRV)

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Making Friends

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: The Sign of a Friend

Game: The Name of the Game

Bible Skills: Finding Friends

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



pre class

ACTIVITY

Making Friends

The children will review this week's lesson as they make puzzles about friendship.

Materials

For each child:

- crayons
- glue stick
- 1 piece of construction paper, 9" x 12"
- 1 small envelope

For the teacher:

- scissors
- marker

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out each of the puzzle pieces from the copies of Reproducible Page E and place them in an envelope for each child.
2. Make a sample to show the children.

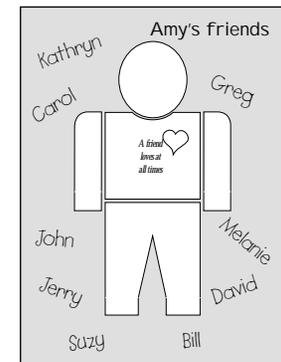
Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Remind them that they are learning about the friendship between David and Jonathan. Explain that in their activity, they will put together a puzzle to remind them of their Bible Story and what true friendship is all about.
2. Distribute the envelopes you prepared, the construction paper, glue sticks and crayons. Tell the children to "make" their friend by placing the pieces together on the construction paper and then gluing them in place. Have the children add facial features and other details to their "friend." Have the children write their names on their pictures as follows:
_____ 's Friends.

3. When they are finished, have them go around to each of the children in the class and have them sign their names on each other's pictures—on the front or the back.

Teacher Tips

- Arrange for new or visiting children to work with other children who will be helpful and encouraging.



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The Sign of a Friend

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they think of ways that their friends can help them do what is right.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of white material, 12" x 12" (or a white handkerchief)

For the teacher:

- fine-point, fabric markers (permanent) in different colors
- 1 large sheet or blanket (optional)
- table (optional)
- 1 flashlight (optional)

Preparation

1. If available, set up a tent by placing the large sheet or blanket to cover table.
2. Using a fabric pen, neatly print "True Friends" in the middle of each piece of material.
3. Read 1 Samuel 20 to review the events of this week's lesson. IMPORTANT: If you use a tent for this activity, make sure to leave at least one "opening" open at all times.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 20. Remind the children that this week's Bible Story is about the friendship of Jonathan and David. Use these questions to review the lesson with the children.

- *Who was Jonathan's father?* (King Saul)
- *Who was David's best friend?* (Jonathan)
- *Why was King Saul jealous of David?* (because God had chosen David to be the next king; remind them of the last lesson in which they learned that God had rejected Saul as king)
- *How did Jonathan warn David that the king wanted to kill David?* (He shot three arrows.)
- *How did Jonathan prove his love and friendship to David?* (risked his life to save David; protected David from his father's plan to kill David; promised to be his friend forever)

Life Application

Invite the children to join you in the tent, or in a circle on the floor. Ask the children if they have ever been part of a secret club. Ask the children what kinds of things friends do in their secret clubs. (Answers may include: secret codes, handshakes, symbols, songs, etc.) Explain that these things make the friends in the club feel special because they share something that only they know about.

David and Jonathan shared a special friendship. What were some things that they shared? (faith and love for God; love for each other and each other's families; commitment to protect each other)

More than once, Jonathan helped David to find his strength in God so that he could do what was right. God wants our friends today to help us do what is right. What are some ways that we can help each other do what is right? (Remind each other of David and Jonathan; promise not to turn away even if everyone else does; pray for each other; give each other a special gift to remind us of our friendship, etc.)

Show the children the white pieces of material you prepared. Explain that this is going to be a special reminder of today's lesson and of their friendships in church. Distribute the fabric pens and have the children each write their names on their material and circle it. Then, have the children pass their piece of material to the next child to have them sign their name—but not circle it. Continue until every child has signed every piece of material. The children should recognize their piece because of their circled name.

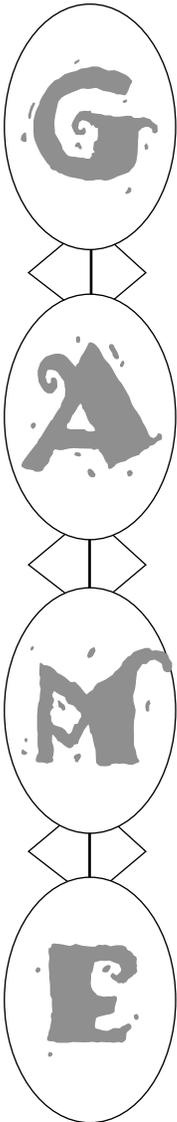
Conclusion

Encourage the children to keep their piece of material in their pocket, backpack or locker at school as a reminder of today's lesson and of their friends in Bible class. Close with a prayer having each child thank God for the child to his right (or left). End the prayer thanking God for each child by name and praying that they will have great friendships with each other like Jonathan had with David.

Teacher Tips

- If practical, bring in a real tent to set up in your class area to enhance the specialness of this activity.





The Name of the Game

The children will review important ideas from his week's Bible Story as they think about the qualities of a friend.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 die (from a pair of dice)
- scissors
- 12 index cards, 3" x 5"
- 1 blue marker
- 1 green marker

Preparation

1. On six index cards, neatly print one of the following letters in blue marker: "F, R, I, E, N, D."
2. On the remaining six cards, repeat Step 1 using the green marker to print the letters.
3. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week you learned about the friendship between David and Jonathan. These two men promised each other that they would be friends forever and they showed their friendship to each other in many different and special ways. Both Jonathan and David risked their lives for each other and proved their love through courage, devotion and loyal friendship. In your game today, you will review important ideas from this week's Bible Story and think of ways that you can be good friends to one another.*
2. Divide the children into two teams. Be careful to mix the children who heard this week's Bible Story with those who did not.
3. Show the children the cards you prepared. Explain that they will take turns rolling a die to answer a question. If they answer the question correctly, they can roll the die again to earn a card. The first team to answer all six questions correctly, collecting all the cards spelling "FRIEND" wins.

4. Choose the team to go first. Give them the die. Have one player roll the die. Ask a question from the chart on the back of this Lesson Card that corresponds to the number on the die. If the team answers correctly, they may roll again to earn a card.
5. Play goes to the next team and continues until one team has answered all the questions and gets all the cards and spells "FRIEND."

NOTE: Questions may be repeated during the game. Use a paper and pencil to keep track of the questions that each team has answered.

Conclusion

Ask the children to each say one thing they want to do to be a better friend. Close with a prayer asking God to help the children become great friends.

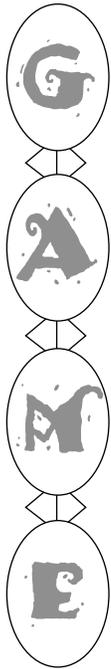
Teacher Tips

- If for some reason the children have not heard this week's Bible Story, review all of the questions and answers with the children before playing this game.



The Name of the Game

Questions and Answers



If a team rolls: 1	Ask one of the following questions: <i>Who was Jonathan's father?</i> (King Saul) or <i>Who was the son of King Saul?</i> (Jonathan)
2	<i>Why did King Saul want to kill David?</i> (because God had chosen David to be the new king) or <i>How did King Saul feel about David?</i> (jealous; angry; wanted to kill him)
3	<i>What did Jonathan plan to shoot to warn David?</i> (three arrows) or <i>How many arrows did Jonathan plan to shoot to warn David?</i> (three)
4	<i>What is one way that you can help your friends do what is right?</i>
5	<i>What is one way that Jonathan proved his friendship to David?</i> (risked his life; warned him; protected him)
6	<i>What is one way that you can prove your friendship to your friends?</i>
If the team rolls: 1 2 3 4 5 6	Give them a card with: the letter "F." the letter "R." the letter "I." the letter "E." the letter "N." the letter "D."





Finding Friends

The children will practice finding verses about friendship.

Materials

For each child:

- paper
- pencil

For the teacher:

- scissors
- 2 extra NIV Bibles

Reproducible Pages:

- Page F, 3 copies for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the "Bible Friends" from all three of your copies of Reproducible Page F.
2. On one set of "Bible Friends" neatly print the word "David" on the backs; on the other set, neatly print the word "Jonathan" on the backs.
3. In one Bible, place the five Bible Friends marked "David" in five random places throughout the Bible—both Old and New Testament. Do the same thing with the second Bible and the Bible Friends marked "Jonathan."
4. Practice leading this activity by marking your own Bible with your last copy of Bible Friends. Place each Bible Friend as a marker closest to the verse written on it.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story this week, you learned about the friendship between David and Jonathan. These two men promised each other that they would be friends forever and they showed their friendship to each other in many different and special ways. Both Jonathan and David risked their lives for each other and proved their love through courage, devotion and loyal friendship. In your activity, you will work together as a team to look up verses in the Bible about friendship.*

2. Divide the children into two teams. To one team, give the name "David" and to the other, "Jonathan." Be careful to balance children who have confident Bible skills with those who are less skilled.
3. Show the children the Bibles you prepared. Explain that in each Bible are five "Bible Friends." Remove one to show the children what they look like and then place it back in the Bible. Tell the children that they will work together to find all five in their team's Bible. Once they have taken them all out, they must locate each of the verses and place them in their correct places in the Bible. For example, when they find a Bible Friend with a verse from John 15, they should place it in John 15.
4. Circulate among the children to offer help and encouragement.
5. When both teams are finished, have them check the locations of their Bible Friends.

Conclusion

Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that so much about friendship is written in the Bible. Close with a prayer thanking God for the great examples of friendship that we can read about in the Bible.

Teacher Tips

- Be sure to empty the Bibles of any papers or markers before this activity.
- Adapt this activity to the skill level of the children in your group.



David and Jonathan



1 Samuel 20:42
Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD."

Psalm 122:8
For the sake of my brothers and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you."

John 15:14
[Jesus said,] "You are my friends if you do what I command."

Acts 15:25
So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul.

Romans 16:9
Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.



Word Search

Name _____

Instructions: Find the words from today's Bible Story in the box to the right and circle them.

Jonathan

David

Samuel

Saul

Friendship

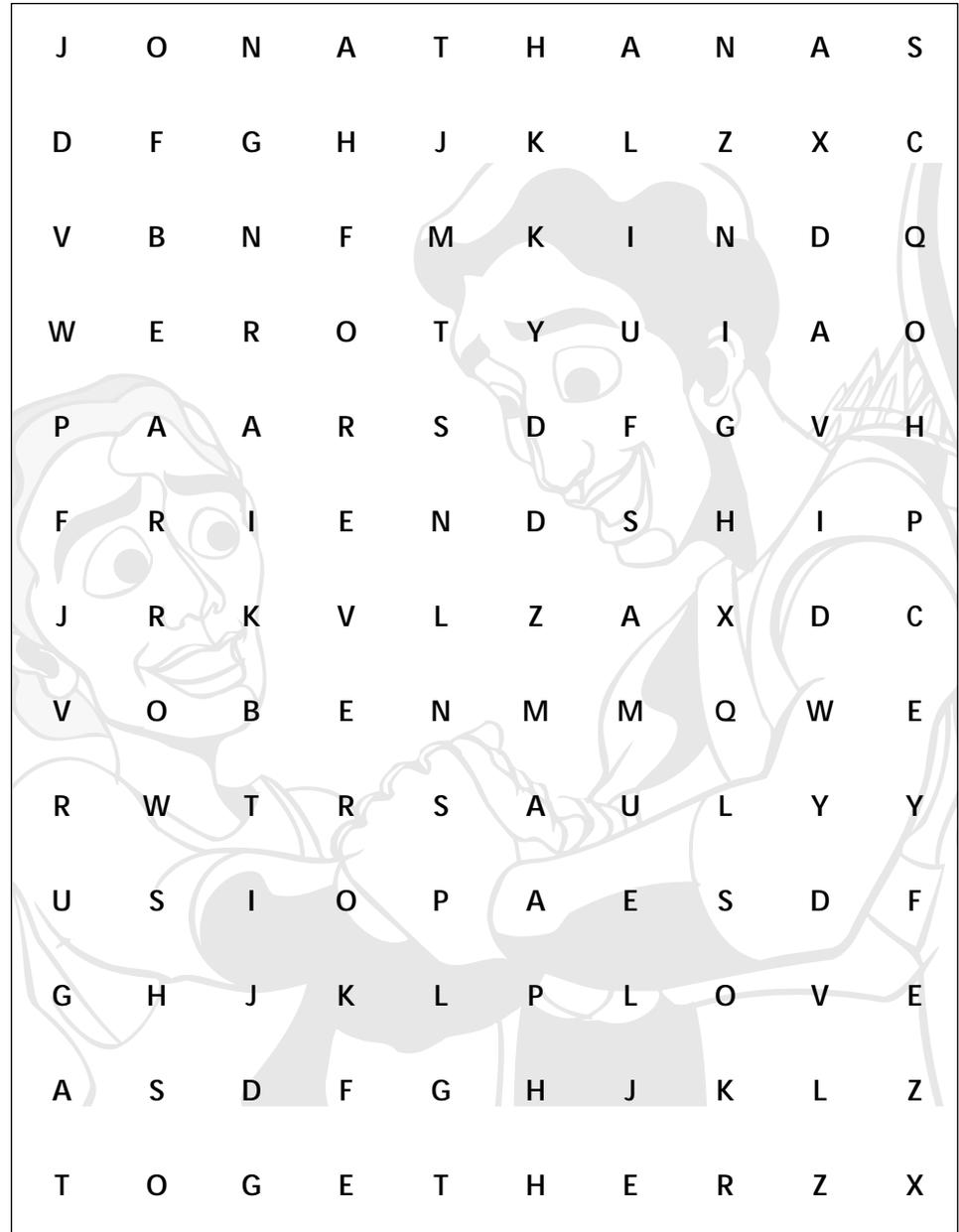
Love

Kind

Together

Arrows

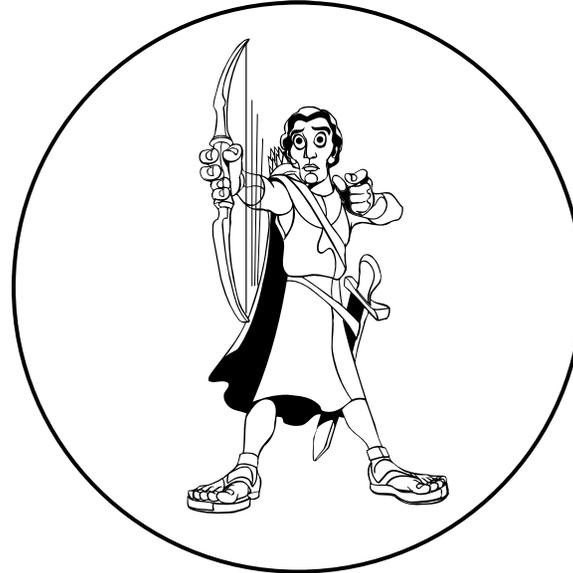
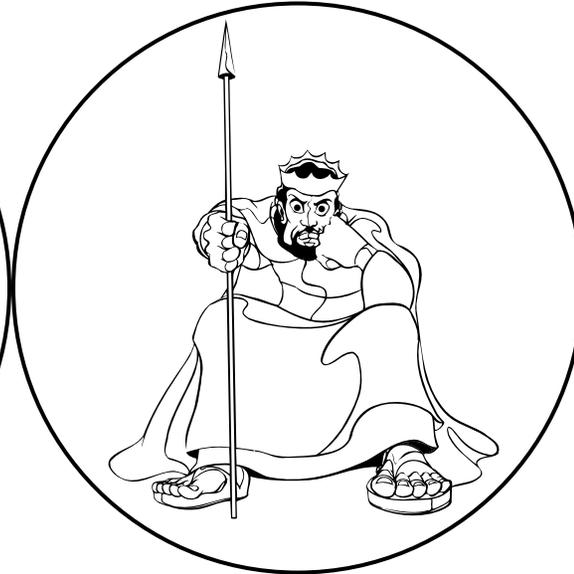
Forever



R
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Core/Bible Story
1 copy for each child

Choose Your Character
Lesson 4



Core/Bible Story
1 copy for each child

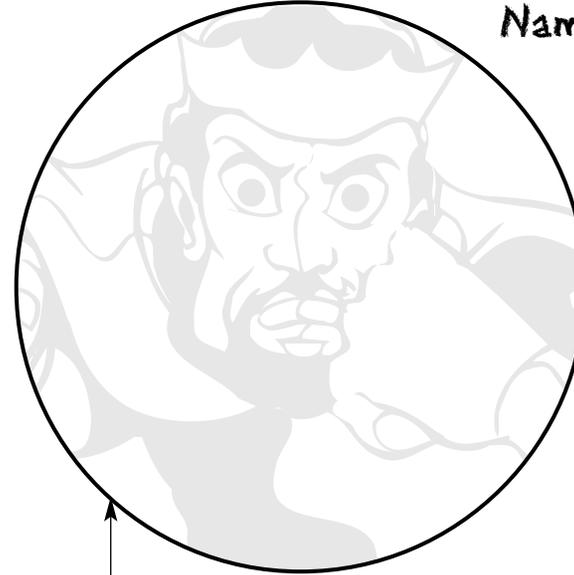
Forever Friends

Choose Your Character
Lesson 4

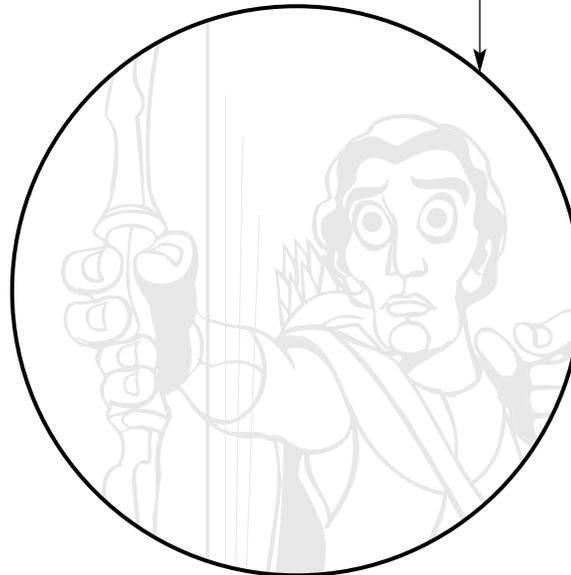
Name _____



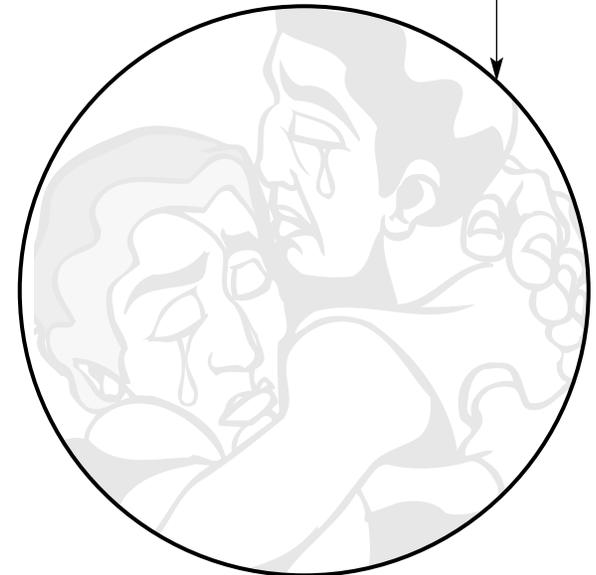
David and Jonathan make a plan and a promise.



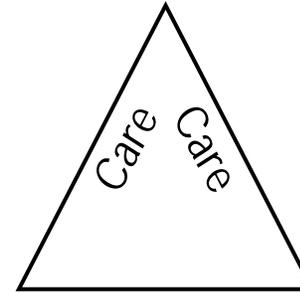
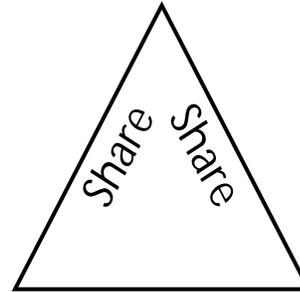
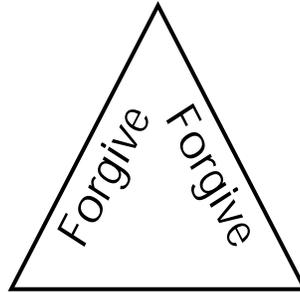
King Saul is angry at David.



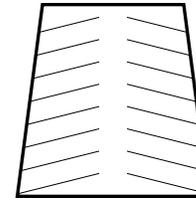
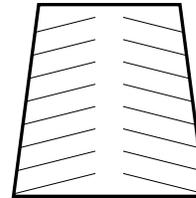
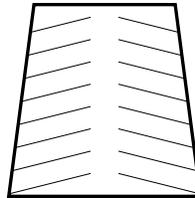
Jonathan risks his life to save David.



Jonathan and David pledge friendship forever.



arrowheads



feathers

Jonathan loved
David just as he
loved himself.

1 Samuel 20:17
(NIRV)

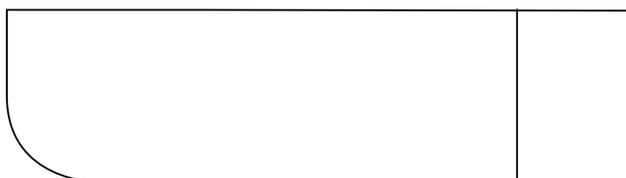
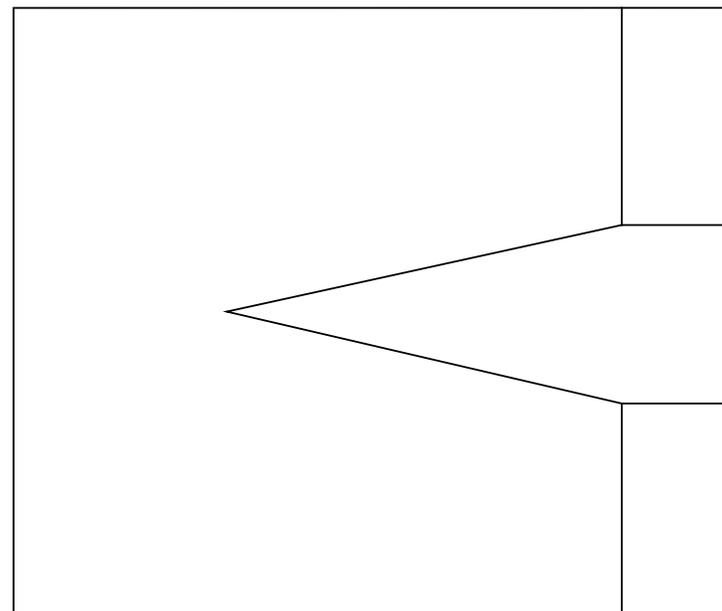
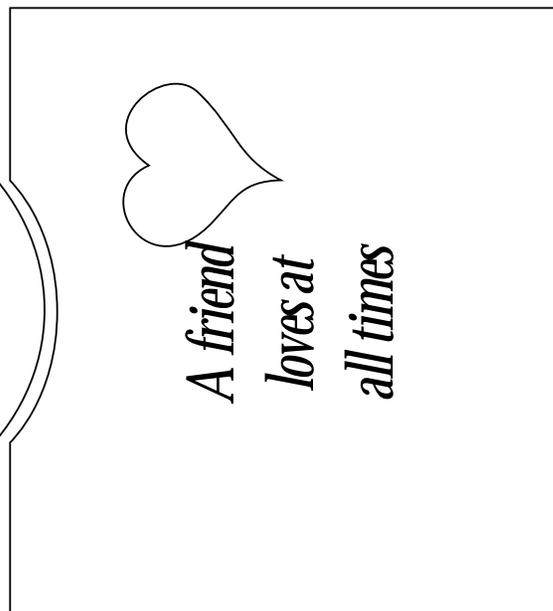
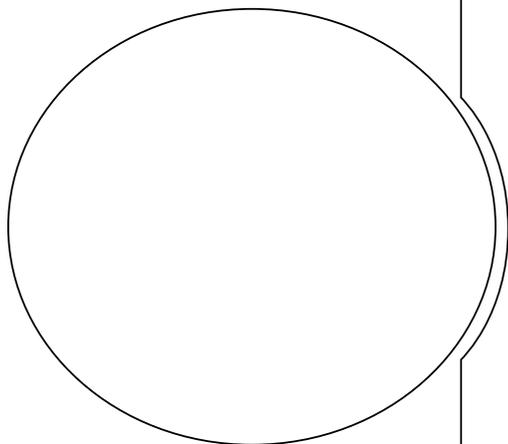
text box



Supplement/Preclass

1 copy for each child

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P
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E



Supplement/Bible Skills

3 copies for the teacher

Choose Your Character

Lesson 4



1 Samuel 20:42
Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn **friendship** with each other in the name of the LORD."



Psalm 122:8
For the sake of my brothers and **friends**, I will say, "Peace be within you."



John 15:14
[Jesus said,] "You are my **friends** if you do what I command."



Acts 15:25
So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear **friends** Barnabas and Paul.



Romans 16:9
Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear **friend** Stachys.

