

Sunday Club – 9th May 2021

The following is one way of delivering this session with children. This week we explore what Jesus means by friendship

Opening activity:

You will need: strips of different coloured A4 paper, sticky tape/glue.

Create a paper chain long enough to wrap around you all!

Opening prayer:

We meet in the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
who chose us for his friends.
Amen.

Open the Bible at John 15.9-17

Sit in a circle to read the story and invite one of you to carefully wrap everyone in the paper chain (made in the opening activity) as they listen, making a large heart shape if possible.

Afterwards, ask whether this felt like staying in the love of Jesus. Ask: How can we do that in our everyday lives?

Jesus was talking with his friends. He said to them, 'I have loved you the way my Father has loved me. Stay close; abide in my love. ✪ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love. I have kept my Father's commands and I remain in his love.'



Jesus continued: 'I've told you these things so that you may be full of joy; that my joy may be yours. This is my command: love one another in the way I have loved you. Make sacrifices for your friends; ✪ no one can love their friends more than by doing this.'

Jesus said to his disciples, 'You are my friends when you do the things I command. I don't call you servants. Servants don't understand what their master is planning. No, I call you friends because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.' ✪

He added, 'Remember, you didn't choose me. I chose you. And I put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that will last. Whatever you ask the Father for in my name, he will give you. Remember: love one another.'

John 15.9-17

[John 15.9-17 ICB - I loved you as the Father loved me. Now - Bible Gateway](#)

Stop and share

- Remind the children what the word 'abide' means: to stay or remain. Explore together what remaining in someone's love might mean.
- Discuss the word sacrifice – something given up for someone. Try to give an example of a sacrifice being made for a friendship in the 21st century.
- Talk about the difference between a servant relationship and a friendship, and why Jesus might make this comparison.

Talk Together:

- Who are your friends? What do you like about them?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus thinks of you as his friend?
- How might having Jesus as a friend help when things are tough?

Craft Activity – Make friendship cards

Give away a sign of friendship

You will need: A4 paper, pens and pencils, A4 card, scissors, glue.

- Give everyone a piece of A4 paper and a pencil and help them to make a small paper doll chain (three or four per chain). Invite your child(ren) to draw on faces and clothes.
- Give them a piece of A4 card folded in half. Ask them to glue the paper dolls in the centre of the card, so they pop out when the card is opened.
- Decorate the front of the card with the words: Jesus said to his disciples, 'You are my friend'. Invite the children to think who they might give the card to and why.

Praise Song:

Hillsong Kids - Jesus Loves Me

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41_teJG0yck

Sing/hum and dance along!

Closing Prayer:

We thank you, God,
that today and every day
you sing a song of love over the world you created.
Thank you for the love of friends and family.
Thank you that we can share love with others.
Amen.

Other ideas for family worship:

An alternative is provided by Hull minster (John 15.1-8)

<https://hullminster.org/family-resources>

Kid's Church (taking a break) You could look at a previous episode you may have missed.

This is great fun and very interactive.

Beforehand, you can read the details which shows you the resources that will be required.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqok2LkCLGZpavyftfcRqA>

Please note that the Rochester Diocese's Ministry at Home has now ceased.