

# Friend Request Accepted

**Bible Story:** Friend Request Accepted (Accept one another) • *Romans 12:16 (Supporting: Romans 15:7)*

**Bottom Line:** Friends accept each other.

**Memory Verse:** “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”

*Proverbs 17:17, NIV*

**Life App:** Friendship—treating others the way you want to be treated.

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

**What You Need:** Offering container, “What’s Your Fave?” Activity Page, pencil

**What You Do:**

Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container as they arrive. Ask the kids in your Small Group the following three questions and tally the results on the “What’s Your Fave?” page:

- What is your fave sport? Soccer, football, or baseball
- What is your fave ice cream? Vanilla, mint chocolate chip, or cookie dough
- What is your fave pants? Shorts, jeans, or workout pants

Take the Activity Page with you to Large Group, where someone will collect it as you enter.

## Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

**Can You Do This?**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

See how many kids in your group can wiggle their ears, curl their tongue, and touch their toes without bending their knees. Ask them if there are any other special “talents” they can do and would like to demonstrate to the group.

**What You Say:**

“All of us have special talents, but we don’t all have the same special talents, do we? God made each of us unique. **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group to learn how God wants us to be unique and be a good friend.**” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

## Catch On #1

**Who’s Your Friend? (application activity / review the Bible story)**

**What You Need:** “Gingerbread Person” (Activity Page), crayons, tape, scissors, Bible

**What You Do:**

Read Romans 12:16. Ask kids what they remember about this verse from Large Group. Then give each kid a “Gingerbread Person” Activity Page. Put the crayons/markers in the middle of the group. Ask the kids to think of one of their friends—it can be a friend from school, a relative, or someone on their sports team or gymnastics team. Once everyone has a friend in mind, read the following statements and have the kids color the area according to their answer.

1. If your friend’s first name begins with a letter between A and L, color the right arm red. If your friend’s first name begins with a letter between M and Z, color the right arm orange.
2. If your friend is in your class at school, color the left arm green. If your friend isn’t in your class, color left arm purple.
3. If your friend is a girl, color the face pink. If your friend is a boy, color the face blue.
4. If your friend likes animals, color the right leg orange. If your friend doesn’t like animals or you don’t know, color the right leg yellow.
5. Write on the body one thing you and your friend like to do together.
6. If your friend is taller than you, color the left leg brown. If you are taller than your friend, color the left leg black.

After the gingerbread people have been decorated, let the kids cut them out. Then tape the gingerbread people's hands together and hang them in a prominent place in the room.

**What You Say:**

"Each of our paper people looks a bit different. Really, none of them are the same. **[Apply]** Just like our paper people, God made each of us unique. We not only look different from one another, we all like different things, too. This goes the same for our friends. What's awesome is that God loves us all. He knows our friends will be different from us but those differences could help make being together a lot of fun! He wants us to remember **[Impress]** friends accept each other. **[Personalize]** (Tell a story about how you have a friend that is different from you but they are still very special to you. For example, maybe you have a friend who is very shy. She is not comfortable in crowds. However, you love to be around a lot of people, but you don't make fun of your friend because she doesn't.) God made us differently and friends accept each other and their differences."

## Catch On #2

**Who's in the Mirror?** (application activity / great for active learners)

**What You Need:** A mirror

**What You Do:**

Have the kids sit side by side in a line on one side of your space. Place the mirror on the opposite side of your space. One at a time, ask kids to move to the mirror (run, skip, crawl, etc.—give them each a different method of movement), pick it up, and turn to face the group. Tell them to look in the mirror and tell everyone what they see. Go first to demonstrate—I see brown eyes, I see brown hair, etc. After every kid has looked in the mirror, tell them to each move to the mirror a second time and ask them what God would see. Go first and say that we see what we look like on the outside but God can see who we are on the inside. For example, God sees I am kind, God sees I love to bake cookies for friends, God loves me, or God saved me.

**What You Say:**

"When God looks at us, He doesn't just see what we look like on the outside. He sees how He created us inside and out. **[Apply]** Each of us is incredibly important to God; He made each of us unique and He loves all of us. That's why it's so important for us to accept others—to treat them like they're important, even if they're different from us. That's how we would want to be treated. When we show them love, we're showing everyone how amazing God's love really is. When **[Impress]** friends accept each other and accept their differences, they are showing the world God's love."

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

**Week 2, July 13**

Orange Sunday – No Treasure Cove

## Fan Club

**Bible Story:** Fan Club (encourage one another) • 1 Thessalonians 5:11

**Bottom Line:** Friends encourage each other.

**Memory Verse:** “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”  
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

**Life App:** Friendship—treating others the way you want to be treated.

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

### Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

**What You Need:** Offering container, deck of cards

**What You Do:** Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container as they arrive. Let kids build a house out of cards. See how high they can build it before it collapses. For a visual demonstration, go to:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Build-a-Tower-of-Cards>

### Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

**Lean on Me**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

Ask the kids to pair up and sit on the floor back-to-back. Without using their hands or arms pushing down on the ground, they have to work together to find a way to stand up.

*Note: Don't give them hints. Let them try to figure it out themselves. If they're having a hard time, you can explain that the key to standing up is pushing against each other's back with their legs to get leverage to help them stand. Another thing that may help is to interlock their arms together as they push up.*

**What You Say:**

“You had to lean on each other in order to stand up. If you didn't work together and help each other, you would still be sitting on the ground! **[Transition]** Now that we've helped each other get up, let's head to Large Group to learn how we can help our friends.” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

### Catch On #1

**Tower of Encouragement (application activity)**

**What You Need:** Supplies to build a tower

**What You Do:**

Instruct kids to work as a team to build a tower. As they place each building “block” on the tower, they have to say an encouraging word or phrase. But, they can't repeat a phrase that someone else has already said.

Examples could be: good job, you ROCK, you are nice, keep going, I will pray for you, etc. See how high you can build the tower before it falls.

**What You Say:**

“Great job coming up with so many encouraging words. **[Apply]** This week, as you spend time with your friends and family, remember the words we used to build our tower and use those words to encourage and build up your friends. Remember: **[Impress]** friends encourage each other.”

### Catch On #2

**Towel Volleyball (review the Bible story / great for active learners)**

**What You Need:** Towels, tape, balls

**What You Do:**

Form teams of two or four depending on the number of kids in your group and the size of the fabric used in the activity. Give each team a towel. Place a line of tape on the floor and have the teams stand on opposite sides of the tape. Instruct the kids to grab the ends of the towel. Place a ball on the towel of one of the teams. Have them work together to throw the ball up in the air, over the tapeline and pass it to another team. See how many times they can pass the ball back and forth in a minute. For a greater challenge, have the teams try to pass two balls at a time.

**What You Say:**

“In order for this to work, both teams had to work together and cheer each other on. It was important for you to pass the ball so that the other team could catch it; in order for one team to do well, both teams had to do well.

**[Apply]** If we want encourage our friends, we should think about what we could do to help them win—not just at a game, but at whatever they’re doing. This could be taking a test to dancing in a recital. What could you do to encourage your friends remember to trust God no matter what and to encourage them to make wise choices? *(Let the kids give you some ideas.)* **[Personalize]** *(Share a time when a friend encouraged you and how it helped you.)* **[Impress]** Friends encourage each other.”

# Friends Worship as One

**Bible Story:** Friends Worship as One (worship with one another) • *Hebrews 10:24-25*

**Bottom Line:** Friends worship with each other.

**Memory Verse:** “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”  
*Proverbs 17:17, NIV*

**Life App:** Friendship—treating others the way you want to be treated.

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

**What You Need:** an offering container

**What You Do:**

Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container as they arrive. Ask kids what type of music they like, what are some of their favorite bands, what is their favorite song. Does anyone in the group play a musical instrument? Anyone play the cowbell? Perhaps act surprised if no one mentions Peach Cobbler!

## Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

**Friends ...**

**What You Need:** “Friendship Bottom Line” (Activity Page), one per kid; pencils

**What You Do:**

Give kids a word puzzle with each of the friendship Bottom Lines they have learned the last two months. Kids will have to unscramble the missing word in the Bottom Line. See if they can identify the “mystery” action word for this week.

**What You Say:**

“You did a great job remembering all the ways we have learned to treat our friends AND figuring out what we are going to talk about today. **[Transition]** Let’s head to Large Group to hear how we can worship with our friends.” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

## Catch On #1

**Is it Worship? (review the Bible story)**

**What You Need:** white boards and markers

**What You Do:**

Hand out a white board and marker to each kid. Give kids one minute to make a list of the ways they can worship with their friends. When the minute is up, go through the lists as a group. If there are any duplicate ideas, kids should mark those off of their lists. The person with the most number of original ways to worship on their list is the winner! Feel free to remind them before they start: worshiping God isn’t only singing His praises but worship is anything we do that shows God you love Him.

**What You Say:**

“There are a lot of ways we can worship with our friends. **[Apply]** We don’t just worship by singing loud. We worship by living loud. Worship is showing God you love Him by the way you act, and the way you treat others. When we spend time with our friends and **[Recycle]** treat others the way you want to be treated, we are worshiping God!” **[Personalize]** Share one or two ways you and your friends worship God together.

## Catch On #2

**Wheelbarrow Race (memory verse activity / great for active learners)**

**What You Need:** 2 sets of “Memory Verse Cards” (Activity Page)

**What You Do:**

Divide your Small Group into two teams and have kids pair up with a partner on their team. Place the memory verse cards at one end of the room and have kids line up at the other end. Teams will race to see which team can gather all their memory verse cards and put them in order first.

To pick up a card, pairs from each team will race with one teammate playing the role of the driver, and the other playing the role of the wheelbarrow. The driver holds on to their partner’s ankles while their partner walks with

his hands. Once a pair has retrieved a card, the “wheelbarrow” person must figure out how to creatively hold the card while wheel barrowing back to the group.

**What You Say:**

“There are times when we all need to be alone but, like we learned in Large Group, life wouldn’t be any fun if you were by yourself ALL the time. We certainly couldn’t have played this game by ourselves, could we? **[Apply]**

**Learning about God with our friends is one way [Impress] friends worship with each other.”**