

I Heart U

Bible Story: I Heart U (Love one another) • 1 John 4:10-12, NIV

Bottom Line: Friends love each other.

Memory Verse: “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11, 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:

Ask kids about something nice someone has done for them or something nice they did for someone.

Prayer Time

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

Catch On #1**Prayer Calendar**

What You Need: “Calendar of Prayer” (Activity Page) for each kid, markers or pens

What You Do:

Instruct kids to fill in the calendar with names of people to pray for (friends, family members, teachers, leaders at school or in government, etc.). Encourage kids to hang their calendar somewhere they will see it daily and pray for the person on their calendar every day.

What You Say:

[Apply] “Hang this calendar in your room somewhere you will see it this week. Let it be a reminder for you this week to pray for these people in your life. Pray that you would be able to love them well and that they would know how much God cares about them. Pray that they would know that you love them because

[Impress] friends love each other.”

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.

Mi Casa Su Casa

Bible Story: Mi Casa Su Casa (Welcome one another) • 1 Peter 4:9

Bottom Line: Friends welcome each other.

Memory Verse: “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11, 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: Explain to your kids that “feeling welcome” is when you go someplace and the people there make you feel like they’re glad you’re there. **[Personalize]** Share about a time when someone made you feel welcome. Ask kids to tell you about a time they felt really welcome somewhere. What was it like?

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

Welcome Toss

What You Need: Basket, sticky notes, cotton balls, marker

What You Do:

Place a basket in the middle of your area. Write the letters W-E-L-C-O-M-E on sticky notes. Put the sticky notes in a circle around the basket on the floor. Start all kids at the W position and have cotton balls available for kids to throw into the basket. If they get a cotton ball in the basket from that position, they can move to the next letter. They must get a cotton ball in the basket from each position as they spell out the word.

What You Say:

“Good job making baskets with those cotton balls! **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about the importance of this word—welcome.” 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

Feeling Left Out (application activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: A ball

What You Do:

Ask kids to think about a time they have felt left out. Explain that we are going to play a game that has to do with feeling left out. Then all the kids should stand in a large circle except one kid who is in the middle. Have kids throw a ball to each other around and across the circle while trying not to let the person in the middle touch it. If the person in the middle touches the ball, the kid who threw it switches places with him. If the person the ball is thrown to doesn’t catch it, she switches places with the kid in the middle.

What You Say:

“For those of you who were in the middle, how did it feel? No one likes to be left out or have the feeling of being unwelcome. That’s why **[Impress]** friends welcome each other. **[Personalize]** (Tell kids about a time when someone made you feel welcome somewhere you would have otherwise felt out of place.) **[Apply]** This week, look around for people who seem like they feel uncomfortable and try to welcome them.”

Catch On #2

Colorful Verses (memory verse activity)

What You Need: “Colorful Verses” Activity Pages, markers, dice

What You Do:

Review the key verse, 1 John 4:11, with the kids. Then ask them to look up this week’s verse, 1 Peter 4:9. Use the tips from last week if needed.

Pair kids up, and give each pair a die and give each kid an Activity Page. Instruct kids to take turns rolling the die. Whichever number they roll, they can color in a word in that column. If they have already colored all the words in that column, they have to wait until it’s their turn again.

What You Say:

“Our theme verse for this month is 1 John 4:11: ‘Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we should also love one another.’ This verse tells us that we should love people, and one way to do that is by welcoming them, as we just read in 1 Peter 4:9. We can welcome them to our lunch table or to our house for a play date, or we can ask them to join us at recess, but in all ways, **[Impress] friends welcome each other. [Apply] This week, remember that God first welcomed us, so we should welcome each other.**”

Friendship Train

Bible Story: Friendship Train (Teach one another) • *Romans 15:14*

Bottom Line: Friends teach each other.

Memory Verse: “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11, *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:

Ask kids about something they learned this week. It could be something they learned how to do at a summer camp, something they found out about themselves, a piece of trivia they learned from watching a show or reading a book, etc.

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

Teach Each Other

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do: Have kids pair up and think of something to teach each other. It might be a game, a song, a joke, a rhyme, or a trick.

What You Say: “You guys have a lot of great things to teach one another. I hope you learned something fun today! **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about why it is important to teach each other things.” 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

Teach It (application activity / Bible story review / great for active learners)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Look up the verses below as a group. Then divide kids into two or three team. Instruct each team to choose one of the verses (or part of the verse) to memorize quickly and come up with hand motions. (Make sure each team chooses a different verse.) Then give teams time to teach the verse and motions to the other team(s).

- “The LORD is honest and good. He teaches sinners to walk in his ways.” Psalm 25:8 (*NIRV*)
- “LORD, teach me your ways. Lead me along a straight path. There are many people who beat me down.” Psalm 27:11 (*NIRV*)
- “My children, come. Listen to me. I will teach you to have respect for the LORD.” Psalm 34:11
- “I know that you want truth to be in my heart. You teach me wisdom deep down inside me.” Psalm 51:6 (*NIRV*)
- “My people, listen to my teaching. Pay attention to what I say.” Psalm 78:1 (*NIRV*)
- “My brothers and sisters, I am sure that you are full of goodness. What you know is complete. You are able to teach one another.” Romans 15:14 (*NIRV*)

What You Say:

“You guys learned those verses and motions quickly. Was it easier to come up with motions on your own or easier to have someone else teach you the motions they already came up with? (*Pause for responses.*) It’s great to share what you know with others because **[Impress]** friends teach each other. **[Apply]** Remember this week that we can use what we know to help people by teaching them.”

Catch On #2

Monkey See, Monkey Do (application activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do: Have kids watch your actions once as you act out the following motions without words: boom (tap your closed fist on your chest), snap, clap, ba-boom (hit your chest twice with your open hand). Teach kids to repeat the sequence. Then add on: snap, clap, snap, boom, snap, clap. Teach the kids to repeat the

sequence and then add on again: ba-boom, snap, boom, clap, clap, shhh (put your finger to your lips). Once kids have learned the whole sequence, ask if anyone wants to add on to it or come up with their own sequence to teach the others. Remind them that they can't use words, just actions.

What You Say:

"One of the most effective ways to teach people about God's love is to not just use words, but also to show them with our actions. **[Impress] Friends teach each other** with their words and their actions. **[Apply] This week, remember that you are teaching people things, even when you aren't speaking.**"

Wait for It

Bible Story: Wait for It (Be patient with one another) • *Ephesians 4:2*

Bottom Line: Friends are patient with each other.

Memory Verse: “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11, 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:

Ask kids about times when it’s hard to be patient with others. Without using names, have them tell about a situation in which they had to be patient with another person. How do they keep from being rude or losing their cool with people who make them impatient?

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

Can We Go Yet? (optional classroom-wide activity)

What You Need: Painter’s tape

What You Do:

Have kids stand on a tape line on one side of the room. Choose one kid to be the timekeeper on the other side of the room. He or she should face away from the group so the group is behind him. The group of kids should yell to the timekeeper, “Can we go yet?” The timekeeper can say, “Not yet,” (kids stay where they are), “Just a little bit,” (kids can take five tiptoes toward the timekeeper) or, “GO!” If the timekeeper says, “GO!” kids can walk quickly (not run) to the other side of the room while the timekeeper tries to tag them. Whoever is tagged first is the new timekeeper.

What You Say:

“That game may have made you a little impatient with the timekeeper when he was waiting so long to let you go or was just making you inch along slowly. It also may have been frustrating that you weren’t allowed to run and could only walk fast to the other side of the room. **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about why we need to be patient with other people, even if they might be going REALLY slowly.**” 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

Hurry It Up (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Have kids divide into two groups to play charades simultaneously. Tell the groups they will each have the same word and will be competing to see who can guess the words first. Have the groups face away from each other and tell each group not to look at the competing group’s actor. As the first person from each group stands up, show each actor the same word. However, secretly tell one of the group’s actors to act out the word as slowly as possible. Do not say anything to the other actor. For the next round, tell the actor on the other team to act his word out as slowly as possible, without letting his group know that you have given him that instruction. Sample words could be: swimming, biking, hiking, boat, rabbit, horse, guitar, violin, apple, camping, wind, sunburn, water, school, mom, dad, teacher, coach, skating, skiing, etc.

What You Say:

“You guys did a great job guessing the words, but I could tell you were getting a little frustrated with the actors when they were acting the words out slowly. It was hard to be patient when you felt like you were going to lose the competition. No matter what’s happening, though, **[Impress] friends are patient with each other. [Apply] This week, try to take a deep breath and be patient with anyone who is frustrating you. [Personalize] (Tell kids about a time you had to be patient with someone.)**”

Catch On #2

Gimme That (*application activity / great for active learners*)

What You Need: Tennis ball

What You Do:

Ask kids to stand in a straight line and pass a tennis ball up and back down the line by only using their elbows to hold the ball. If someone drops the ball, they must start over from the beginning of the line.

What You Say:

"It's easy to feel impatient when you feel like someone should be doing something differently or when you feel like they are making you wait, but we need to remember that getting frustrated and angry with people isn't going to help anything. Sometimes people disappoint us or make us impatient, but we need to remember that **[Impress] friends are patient with each other. [Apply] When you feel yourself getting angry or frustrated with someone, try counting to three to help yourself calm down.**"

Service with a Smile

Bible Story: Service with a Smile (Serve one another) • *Galatians 5:13b*

Bottom Line: Friends serve each other.

Memory Verse: “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11, *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: Ask kids about the nicest thing someone ever did for them. Why did they do it?

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

Serve

What You Need: white boards, markers

What You Do:

Have kids draw a picture of what they think of when they hear the word “serve.”

What You Say:

“Serving can mean lots of different things from serving food at a restaurant to a serve in tennis. *[Transition]*

Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about why it is so important to serve those around us.”

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 Are You? (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: no supplies

What You Do:

Have kids sit in a row to create an “audience.” Then choose two kids to come up and sit or stand facing the audience. Allow them take turns pretending to be a reporter and interviewing their partner about things they like and don’t like. Suggest questions such as “What’s your favorite sport?” “What’s your favorite thing to do after school?” “What’s your favorite food?” “If somebody offered to do any one thing for you, what would you choose?” Give each interviewer a few minutes to ask questions before reversing the roles. Then, take volunteers for pairs to go next.

What You Say:

“Part of serving people is thinking about their wants and needs above your own. It’s important to think about others because *[Impress]* friends serve each other. *[Personalize]* (Tell kids about a time someone served you well by knowing just what you needed.) *[Apply]* Remember this week that the best way to serve people is to first know what they need.”

Catch On #2

Service in Action (application activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: Bulletin board paper, markers, sticky notes; pens

What You Do:

Write “How to Serve Others” on the bulletin board paper. Then have kids write ideas of how to serve others on sticky notes. Let them stick the ideas to the paper. Next, group kids into twos or threes and have each group choose an activity off the paper to act out in a skit for the rest of the group.

What You Say:

“There are lots of ways to serve other people. Some are big and some are small, but everything we do for another person is valuable to them and God sees even our smallest acts of service. We need to keep thinking of ways to help each other because *[Impress]* friends serve each other. *[Apply]* This week, try to do one of these acts of service for someone else.”