Friends stick up for each other.

Bible Verse
“A friend is always loyal” (Proverbs 17:17a).

Growing Closer to Jesus
Children will
■ learn that friends stick by each other in hard times,
■ recognize times they have stuck by friends or have cared for them,
■ teach Pockets what it means to be loyal to a friend, and
■ understand the difference between physically sticking to someone and sticking up for a friend.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis
■ Jonathan and David stick by each other even in hard times.

1 Samuel 19:1-6
Proverbs 18:24 says, “There are ‘friends’ who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.” The story of Jonathan and David is about two such friends. After killing Goliath, David apparently became part of Saul’s court, doing whatever Saul asked him to do. The friendship between Jonathan and David grew in Saul’s court.

David did everything so well that Saul gave him a high rank in the army (1 Samuel 18:5). The people began to honor David above Saul, and Saul grew jealous. This is where Jonathan’s loyalty to David began to be tested. Saul, Jonathan’s father, tried twice to kill David by hurling a spear at him, but David managed to dodge the spear (1 Samuel 18:10-11).

The remainder of 1 Samuel 18 records Saul’s continuing efforts to have David killed, but to Jonathan’s relief, none of the schemes worked. Finally Saul openly told his son and servants to kill David (1 Samuel 19:1). At this point, Jonathan demonstrated the depth of his love and loyalty to his friend. He warned David about Saul’s decree and cautioned David to go into hiding. Even after parting, David and Jonathan remained loyal to each other.

Prayer
• Read Proverbs 18:24.
• What kind of friend are you?
• Pray: Dear Lord God, I know that you are the highest example of a true, loyal friend. Help me be a true friend to the children in this class. Help the children in my class begin to understand what it means to be a loyal friend.

Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Pre-K & K, Ages 5 & 6
**Before the Lesson**
- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children who will be attending your class.

### This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.*
Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** “Heart Name Tags” (p. 23), markers, pins or tape

• Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
• Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
• Thank each child for coming to class today.
• As children arrive, ask them about last week’s lesson or take-home page. Use questions such as “How did Jonathan share with his friend David?” or “What things did your family share last week?”
• Say: **Today we’re going to learn that friends stick up for each other.**
• Hand out the heart name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. Have extra heart name tags on hand for children who were not in class last week or to replace damaged name tags.
• Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity. Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and to direct their conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “How do you feel when a friend helps you?” or “What are some ways you’ve been helpful to your friends?”

**Option 1: Paper Friends**

**SUPPLIES:** crayons or markers, yarn, scissors, glue sticks or tape, “Paper Friends” handouts (p. 107)

Distribute photocopies of the “Paper Friends” handout, two per child. Set out crayons, scissors, scraps of colored yarn, and glue or tape. Instruct children to cut out the paper figures. (Save the paper scraps for “Setting the Stage.”) Have children each color one figure to look like themselves and one to look like a friend. Then help children glue yarn to their figures for hair or clothing. Finally, have them use the glue or tape to join the hands of their figures together. Be sure each child makes a paper figure, as children will use the figures later.

While children are coloring and gluing, ask questions such as “Who are some of your friends?” or “Have you ever helped a friend? How?” Remind children that friends stick up for each other. Tell children that today they’ll hear a Bible story about two good friends. Set aside the figures to use during the Closing.

**BIBLE POINT**

Invite the children to help you create classroom rules. Here are some rules that work well with 5- and 6-year-olds: Use quiet voices, stay at your workplace, work together, help each other, and say nice words to each other. Children will enjoy reminding each other to follow rules they’ve helped create.

**teacher tips**

If you don’t choose Option 1, photocopy the handout before class, and cut out enough paper figures for each child in the class to have one for the Closing activity.

**BIBLE POINT**
Option 2: Stuck on You!

SUPPLIES: chalkboard, dry-erase board, or smooth wall; cup of water or damp cloth

Set the glow ball and a cup of water near a chalkboard or dry-erase board. Have children stand about 5 feet from the board. Show children how to dip the ball in the water and then toss the ball at the board to make it stick. Have children take turns tossing the ball. Each time the ball sticks, have children give each other a round of high fives. Explain that the “sticky” glow ball reminds us that friends stick together and that friends stick up for each other.

Option 3: Cracker Stacks

SUPPLIES: graham crackers, frosting, plastic knives, napkins, wet wipes

Have children clean their hands with wet wipes. Invite each child to spread frosting on one half of a graham cracker and then place another cracker on the frosting to make a sandwich. Have children turn their sandwiches over. Point out how the crackers are like two loyal friends—they stick together no matter what happens.

Let children eat their crackers. If a child hasn’t made a cracker sandwich, have someone make another to share with that friend.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player

Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

You’ll be using this song each week to alert children to start picking up.

If you want to include the names of all the children in the class, sing the song without the CD, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.

SING

We will pick up our toys. There’s [name] picking up toys.
We will pick up our toys. There’s [name] picking up toys.
We will pick up our toys. There’s [name] picking up toys,
And put them all away. Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)
Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** masking tape, paper scraps from Option 1, CD player

Tell children you'll clap a little rhythm to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, children are to stop what they're doing, copy the rhythm you clapped, and focus on you. Plan to do a couple of clapping rhythms each time so children will have to listen carefully in order to copy what you clapped. Practice this signal a few times.

Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Say: All of you have just finished activities where things stuck together. Some of you made paper dolls and talked about friends you stick together with. Some of you played with a sticky glow ball, and some of you put sticky frosting on crackers. The Bible tells us that friends stick up for each other.

But now we need to be sure we know what it means to stick up for someone. I'll tell about some situations. If the kids are sticking up for each other, clasp your hands together. If the kids are not sticking up for each other, hold your hands far apart.

• Jacob and Matthew are friends. Zach told Matthew mean things about Jacob. Matthew asked Zach not to say bad things about his friends. (Hands clasped together.)

• Emily was going to play with Taylor, but then Grace came up. Emily went to play with Grace and left Taylor all alone. (Hands far apart.)

• Elliot watched his friend Noah work hard to make a sand castle. Then he ran up and smashed the castle. (Hands far apart.)

• Natalie and Amanda are friends. Amanda saw Aaron push Natalie down. She ran over and helped Natalie. (Hands clasped together.)

Now we're going to play a game with our friends to understand more about sticking up for each other.

Have children form pairs. Give them the scraps of paper you saved from Option 1 or other scratch paper. Say: Crumple your scraps of paper into balls. Be sure you and your partner have at least four balls. Set the balls on the floor beside you.

While children are making the balls, go around the room and wrap masking tape, sticky side out, twice around one hand of each child.

Say: Now you're ready for a game of Catch with your partners. There's only one rule: You must catch the ball with your taped hand. After you catch the ball, unstick it and continue playing.

After everyone has tossed and caught the balls a few times, clap your hands to get children's attention. Have children remove their tape and throw the tape and paper balls into the wastebasket. Then sit with the children on the floor and ask:

• What happened when you tried to catch the balls with something sticky on your hand? (It felt silly; it was easier to catch the ball.)

• What was different about catching the paper ball with the tape on your hand? (It was easier because you didn't drop the ball as much; it was harder because you had to peel the ball off each time you caught it.)

Say: Just as it was easier to catch the paper balls with something sticky...
on your hand, it’s easier to go through hard times when friends stick together. When friends stick up for each other, hard things seem easier and more fun. Sticking up for each other is another way friends are loyal to each other.

Say: Our Bible verse, Proverbs 17:17a, reminds us that “a friend is always loyal.” Have children repeat the verse with you.

Ask: • How else do friends show they are loyal? (Friends share with each other; friends are nice to each other.)

• How have you been a loyal friend by sharing? (I shared my special treat with my friends; I shared my toys.)

Say: Let’s sing our Bible verse song to help us remember that a friend loves at all times.

Lead the children in singing “A Friend Loves at All Times” (track 9) to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

A friend loves at all times.
A friend loves at all times.
God helps you love your friends.
A friend loves at all times.
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: Today we’re going to learn how friends are loyal by sticking up for each other.

### Bible Song and Prayer Time

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player, basket or box, scissors, construction paper

Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the friendship stamp inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark 1 Samuel 19:1-6 in the Bible you’ll be using.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I’ll pass out the surprise cards. Don’t look inside your surprise card until the song is over.

Lead children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the CD to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.

Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.
(Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the two friends stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person today.
Identify the Bible person, and have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place, and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] was our special Bible person today. Each week, we’ll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that ▶ friends stick up for each other.

Let’s say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn about being good friends who are loyal and stick together. I’ll have the helper pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, “God, please help me to be the best friend I can be.”

Pass around the basket or box. When you’ve collected everyone’s surprise card, set the basket aside, and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: God, thank you for the Bible and for all the truth in it. Teach us today that ▶ friends stick up for each other. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Hear and Tell the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Bring out the Bible Big Book: David and Prince Jonathan. Have children gather around you. Hold up the Bible Big Book, point to it, and say: Our Bible story comes from the book of 1 Samuel. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story.

Friends always share with each other; but ▶ friends also stick up for each other when they’re in trouble.

Ask: ▶ What does it mean to stick up for a friend? (To stand by him; help her; care for him; protect her from harm.)

Open the Bible Big Book to page 1 and ask:

• Who remembers how Jonathan showed that he was friends with David? (Jonathan gave his bow, armor, and belt to David; he shared with David.)

Allow a moment for children to look at the picture. Ask different children to come up and point out each item that Jonathan shared with David.

Say: Today we’re going to listen to the next part of “David and Prince Jonathan.”

With the Bible Big Book open to page 1, listen to track 8 from the CD, “David and Prince Jonathan (Part 1).” Stop the CD after the end of page 5 in the book.

Turn the Bible Big Book back to page 1. Say: Find a partner. You can help each other do this activity. We’ll look at each picture in our Bible Big Book again. If you think the picture shows someone sticking up for a friend, stand up and link arms with your partner.

Page 1—(Jonathan sharing his armor with David) This is a good thing to do, but it isn’t someone sticking up for a friend.

Pages 2-3—(Jonathan standing between an angry Saul and David) Yes, this picture shows Jonathan standing up for David against Jonathan’s own father.

Page 4—(Saul announcing his plans to kill David, and Jonathan sneaking out to tell David) Yes, this picture shows Jonathan sticking up for David by sneaking out to tell David about Saul’s nasty plans.
Page 5—(Jonathan and David making a plan) Yes, the friends are sticking together to make sure David doesn’t get hurt. And Jonathan is promising his friendship to David.

Close the Bible Big Book, and set it aside. Then say: Jonathan and David stuck up for one another because they cared for each other. God was helping them be brave and loyal to each other.

They knew that friends stick up for each other; now you can take turns telling how you felt when a friend stuck up for you. Go around the circle, and invite each child to share.

I’m really happy to hear how you and your friends stick up for each other. It makes us feel special when others care about us and are loyal to us.

Say: Jesus also faced some very hard times. Most of his friends were not loyal and did not stick up for him. Some fell asleep when he needed them to stay with him, some ran away when there was trouble, and some said they didn’t know him. It made Jesus very sad. But God always stuck with him.

Ask: How would it make Jesus sad that his friends were not loyal to him? (Friends should be loyal; Jesus wanted his friends to be loyal.)

How can you be a loyal friend to Jesus? (I can tell other kids how much I love him; I can pray to him more.)

Say: Jesus wants you to be loyal to your friends and to him. When we are loyal, it makes Jesus happy.

Let’s play a game to help you remember to be loyal by sticking to your friends.

Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none

Gather children in a circle around you. Hold up the compass from the Learning Lab for all to see.

Say: This is a compass. Compasses show people what direction they are traveling. They help people find their way when they are lost, or keep their way so they won’t get lost. The letters on the compass represent the directions people travel: north, south, east, or west. Pass the compass around so all the children can see the letters. The compass also has a needle. No matter which way you turn the compass, the needle always points north.

Set the compass on a level surface. Let children examine it to see the needle. Gently turn the compass while children watch, so they can see how it always points the same direction.

Say: In today’s Bible story, we learned how Jonathan always stuck up for David. Jonathan was kind of like the needle on this compass. No matter what happened, Jonathan was David’s friend.
Ask: • What happened that made it important for Jonathan to stick up for David? (Jonathan’s father wanted to kill David; Jonathan’s dad the king wanted to hurt David.)

• How did Jonathan stick up for David? (Jonathan protected David; he warned David of his father’s plan to kill him; he helped David escape.)

Hold up one magnetic marble from the Learning Lab.

Say: This marble has a magnet inside it. When you place a magnet next to a compass, the magnet pulls the needle toward it. A magnet is the only thing that can keep a compass needle from pointing north. Demonstrate, and then let each child try. Jonathan’s father, Saul, was like the magnet in the marble. He tried to keep Jonathan from being a good friend to David. Jonathan was stronger than our compass needle, though. Jonathan always stuck up for his friend David. Jonathan shows us how friends stick up for each other.

Pass out the magnetic marbles.

Say: Let’s review some other ways that friends stick up for each other. Earlier we played a game where you moved your hands close together or far apart to show if a child was sticking up for a friend. I’m going to tell you about those situations again. This time, if the kids are sticking up for each other, put your magnetic marble behind your back. If the kids are not sticking up for each other, hold your magnetic marble close to the compass to pull the needle in another direction.

Review the four situations from the “Setting the Stage” activity, letting children choose where to hold their magnetic marbles as you do.

Ask: • What does it mean to stick up for a friend? (To help them; to stand up for them.)

• How can you stick up for your friends? (Say nice things about them; play with them when others won’t.)

Say: Jonathan stuck up for his friend David. We can stick up for our friends, too, even when they are not around. It’s a good thing God has given us friends to help us and to have fun with. I’m thankful for friends who stick up for each other. Now it’s time to visit with one of our favorite friends.

**Closing**

**The Stickup**

**SUPPLIES:** transparent tape, small stick

Before class, place a small stick and a roll of transparent tape in Pockets’ pouch. Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following script. After you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.
Pockets: (Excitedly) Oh, I'm so excited to be here today. I was watching you look at pictures of David and Jonathan, and I heard you talking about sticking up for friends. Well, I'm ready!

Teacher: Ready for what?

Pockets: Ready to put my stick up, what else? (Takes a small stick out of her pocket.)

Teacher: Oh, no, Pockets. We don't use sticks from trees to stick up for our friends. (Take stick from Pockets.)

Pockets: Oh. (Pauses to think.) OK, I'm ready.

Teacher: Ready for what?

Pockets: (Pulling out the roll of tape) I'm ready to stick to a friend. Which one of the kids do I get to stick to?

Teacher: Oh, no, Pockets! We don't use tape to stick to our friends. (Take tape from Pockets.)

Pockets: This stickup thing is harder than I thought, but I'm ready again.

Teacher: Now what are you ready for?

Pockets: I'm going to stick my nose up in the air for all my nice friends. See? (Lift up Pockets' nose.)

Teacher: Children, is this how God wants us to stick up for our friends? (Lead children in a resounding "no!") Who can explain to Pockets about sticking up for friends? (Allow children time to respond.) Pockets, sticking up for friends means you're loyal to them. It means you help them and you're on their side. You see, Pockets, friends stick up for each other no matter what.

Pockets: (Nodding) Oh, I can do that. I could stick up for any one of you kids if you needed me, just as Jonathan stuck up for David. I know that friends take care of each other. You'd probably stick up for me, too, right? 'Bye, friends. See you next week!

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**Two Good Friends**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, paper figures from Option 1, transparent tape

Sit with children in a circle on the floor. Hand out the paper figures from Option 1. Say: We've been learning today that friends stick up for each other. We have a whole classful of friends. Let's join our paper figures together to show that God teaches us to stick up for each other. I'll need two of you to come up and tape your figures together. As you're taping the figures together, each of you can say something friendly to your partner. For example, you might say, “I like the way you help others” or “You're good at making people smile.”

Invite two children to come forward and tape their paper figures together at the hands. Have children affirm each other before they sit down. Turn the paper-figure
friends upside down and sideways. Say: **Even when friends go through rough times that turn them around and upside down, good friends still stick together.** Ask two more children to come up and join their figures to the others to form a growing line of “friends.”

Continue until each pair of children has joined their figures to the group and has affirmed each other. Then say: **Get back with your partner, and we’ll sing a song about friends who are loyal.** It’ll help us always remember that **friends stick up for each other.**

Lead children in singing “Two Good Friends” (track 10) to the tune of “Three Blind Mice” with the CD. Have children sing and act out the following song with their partners.

**SING**

Two good friends. (Shake right hands.)
Two good friends. (Shake left hands.)
They stick together. (Shake right hands again.)
They stick together. (Shake left hands again.)
They stick together from head to toe. (Put heads and toes together.)
They stick together through high and low. (Still sticking, stand on tiptoe, squat down, and then stand up.)
They stick together through yes and no. (Still sticking, nod “yes,” and then shake heads “no.”)
Two good friends. (Shake hands, and then separate.)

Sing the song several times until the children can do the actions with ease.

Say: **Tell your partner the name of a friend of yours and how you will stick by that friend.** If children have a difficult time thinking of a way they can be loyal by sticking to a friend, suggest things like not saying bad things about the friend, not letting others say bad things about the friend, not leaving the friend to go play with someone else, or not letting others be mean to the friend.

Have children gather around you in a circle. Say: **It’s fun to sing with our friends, and it’s nice to pray with our friends, too.** Hold the hand of a friend and let’s pray. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for the friends in this room. Please help us care for our friends and be loyal. Thank you for caring for us. You’re our best friend. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

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**Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.
**Lively Learning: Partner Path**

Create a simple obstacle course in the room. Have children climb over chairs, scoot under tables, and weave around books. Then let children repeat the path while each holds hands with a partner. Afterward, ask:

- **Was it easier to travel the path with or without your partner? Explain.** (Harder because we couldn’t fit or go under together; easier because my partner helped me.)
- **When do you like to do things with your friends?** (At recess; when I play outside; when it’s raining.)

Say: *It’s easier and more fun to go places with our friends. Isn’t it wonderful when friends stick up for each other?*

**Make to Take: Faithful Friends**

Set out paper, glue, markers or crayons, and several small twigs. Have each child create a picture of one way to stick up for a friend. For example, twigs might become a tree, a road, or part of a house in a child’s picture. Title the pictures “I STICK by my friends!” If time allows, have children share their pictures with the class and tell about how friends stick up for each other.

**Treat to Eat: Go-Togethers**

You’ll need two sliced apples, caramel dip, and plastic knives. Say: *I have two foods with me.* Hold up the apples and the caramel dip. Each is nice to eat alone, but they’re better when they’re together. Let’s help them go together like good friends.

Show children how to spread caramel on a slice of apple. Then allow children to make their own stick-togethers with pairs of apple slices. Say: *Good friends are like this snack.* They’re fine when they’re apart, but they’re great when they stick together!

**Story Picture: Friends Stick Together**

Give each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned…” handout. Set out scissors, glue, scraps of construction paper, and crayons or markers. Have children decorate the picture of Jonathan and the king.
Paper Friends

Photocopy and cut out the paper figures. Children will decorate the dolls to look like themselves and their friends.
Today your child learned that friends care for and stick up for each other. Children learned that Jonathan stuck by David. They talked about how friends are loyal to each other.

**Verse to Learn**

“A friend is always loyal” (Proverbs 17:17a).

**Ask Me...**

- How did Jonathan stick up for David?
- Is it always right to stick up for your friends? What if they do something wrong?
- How can we stick up for each other in our family?

**Family Fun**

Make s’mores with your family. Place a marshmallow on half of a graham cracker. Heat it in the microwave until the marshmallow puffs up. Then press a square of milk chocolate into the marshmallow and add a graham cracker lid. Point out that once the marshmallow sticks to the chocolate, it can’t be separated. Explain that friends need to stick together, too.

**Jonathan Sticks Up for David (1 Samuel 19:1-6)**