How to Make Good Friends

Lesson 1: My Best Friend, Jesus
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Unit Summary
The ability to choose good friends is an invaluable skill for children to possess. Few things will shape their futures more significantly. The friends that children select will dramatically influence their character, their choices, their interests, their conduct—and the direction of their lives!

In this unit, you will help children become thoughtful and intentional about their friendship choices—yielding dividends that will last throughout their lives. You will guide your children to understand that friendships are not merely gifts from God, but lasting treasures that they must intentionally seek.

Lesson Summary
The best way we can encourage children to choose positive friendships is to start by introducing them to the model friendship: Jesus, the Friend of Sinners, and the One who will be their unconditional, lifelong Friend. Kids long for a best friend, and if they can discover that Jesus wants to be that Friend, He will equip them to evaluate other friendships. They will also enjoy having a companion to help them become the type of friend who will be a beacon for other relationships.

Paul’s Power Principle: Jesus is the best Friend you’ll ever have.

Disciple Targets
In this lesson, your children will...

Know
- Jesus is the best Friend they could ever imagine having

Feel
- Secure knowing that Jesus accepts them just the way they are

Do
- Invite Jesus to be their Best Friend for life
Welcome!—Grand Entrance

For this series on friendship, making the children feel welcome is more important than ever! If you do not normally use name badges in children’s church, please consider using them during this unit. It is wonderful when every child is greeted by name every time he or she is seen and called upon!

For this first lesson, have everything ready to go ahead of time. Also, gather as many volunteers as you can—well in advance. Ask all your volunteers to make two lines at the entrance of the room on both sides of the doorway (forming a “tunnel”) so as children arrive they have to pass through the tunnel with volunteers on both sides. As they enter the room, have all the volunteers cheer, welcome them, give them high fives, announce them by name, and call out, “It’s our friend [name]!” Hanging balloons and streamers near the entrance may be a fun way to make the children’s arrival even more festive. Your goal is to make the children feel as welcome and celebrated as possible. Be sure every child hears, “Jesus is so glad YOU are here today!”

PowerPoint Presentation

As you plan your lesson, select PowerPoint slides that correspond to the lesson elements you choose. In the “Slide Sorter” View, you can rearrange and/or delete the slides as necessary. For descriptions of the included slides and tips on their use, see the notes accompanying each slide.

General Supplies
- Bibles, puppets, video projection (optional)
- Pencils, pens, paper

Spark Interest
- WELCOME!: none
- LET’S PLAY!: blindfolds, notecards
- CONNECT WITH YOUR KIDS: none

Explore Scripture
- KEYVERSE: none

Inspire Action
- DRAMATIZE THE POINT: robot props

Choose from the following activities and ideas to engage kids and grab their attention.
Let’s Meet-n-Greet!
How many different people can you shake hands with and exchange names with in one minute? Challenge the children to try, and afterward, ask the children, **How many names do you remember?** Let the children see how many names they remember by having them point to the other children around them while reciting their names. After the room has calmed down, explain, **Jesus knows everyone’s name, not only here in this room, but in every room, in every building, in every state, in every country, and everywhere on the entire planet! Since He already knows everyone’s name and loves everyone for who they are, He’s the best Friend anyone could ever have!**

Leaders, be sure to stop whatever you are doing to move through the audience and greet the children, especially those you do not recognize. Announce any birthdays for the week. (See the How to Use DiscipleTown guide for quick and easy ways to acknowledge visitors and birthdays.)

Let’s Worship!
Reinforce the lesson by praising God for the intimate relationship available with His Son. Thank Jesus for being the best Friend a person could possibly have.

**Recommended Song:** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, public domain

Puppet Intro
**Leader & puppet introduce today’s lesson. You will find a scripted version of this intro at the end of the lesson. Supplies: puppet, newspaper**

Puppet*, holding a newspaper, has decided to place an ad for a new friend. When leader asks why, puppet sadly says that some of his friends have let him down, so he is looking for a new friend—a perfect friend. Puppet says he is also excited, because even though his friends have upset him, he knows that the perfect best friend is out there somewhere! This statement makes leader curious, so he asks puppet to describe his idea of a perfect friend. Puppet says that he wants a friend who will always be nice, will always be helpful and kind, will never be selfish, and will never abandon him. Leader says that he thinks he knows someone just like that. He explains that Jesus is the greatest Best Friend anyone could ever have because He will always love you and will never leave your side. He tells puppet that all he has to do to become Jesus’ best friend is talk to Him often through prayer. Puppet tells leader that this news is some of the best he has ever heard, and he cannot wait to talk to his new Best Friend!

*PUPPET: Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at DiscipleLand.com
Let's Play!—The Friend Factor Game Show

**Supplies:** blindfolds, notecards, pens

Select two boy and two girl volunteers from the class to compete in a game-show style competition. The audience participates by rooting for their team and guessing who will win. Set up the stage with four chairs, two on each side, and a sign that says “The Friend Factor.” Ask each child two questions, one at a time, and have him or her write each answer on a notecard that they give to the emcee. Blindfold their partners and give them three options as to the answer (only one of which is correct). While the blindfolded partner guesses at the correct answer, have the non-blindfolded partner hold up a card with the number 1 or 2 or 3 (the number of the partner’s answer) as the emcee reads them. In this way, the entire class can see the correct answer. If the blindfolded partner answers incorrectly, the opposing team gets the opportunity to guess which of the other two answers is correct. Then the emcee reveals the correct answer. If the team that was up answers correctly, award 100 points. If not, and the opposing team answers correctly, award the opposing team 50 points. Repeat this process for the opposing team, and then switch roles/blindfolds.

**Question suggestions:**
1) My favorite TV show is…
2) My favorite candy is…
3) If I had $100, I would buy…
4) My best/favorite subject in school is…
5) The last book I read was…
6) If I could dye my hair, I would pick the color…
7) My kindergarten teacher’s name was…
8) My favorite color is…
(or make up your own!)

**NOTE:** You will want to plan ahead to make up other possible answers so that they sound plausible.

Connect with Your Kids

*This object lesson primes the kids to think about value.*

Share a time in your life when your friendship with Jesus got you through a difficult time. Telling children about “Jesus as our Best Friend” is an abstract concept and will do little good if they do not hear a real-life story of what it means. For example, I have a powerful story of a time I got a flat tire in a very dangerous part of Chicago after an evangelistic meeting. I was dressed in a tuxedo because of the event, and it was getting dark. I had no cell phone and only a few dollars cash, but I prayed and asked Jesus to keep me safe. He sent a man who offered to escort me to someone who could help. Groups of dangerous-looking gangs parted as we walked to a neighborhood garage. When we arrived, I turned to thank him, but he was gone! When I asked the people there if they saw the man who came with me leave, they bewilderingly looked at me and said I had come alone—even though the other man had carried my tire! I knew then that Jesus (or an angel sent by Him) had been with me. Stories like this one will stick with kids and engage them in the lesson to come—while giving them a concrete idea of Jesus as Best Friend.
DiscipleTown Visitor

Mail Carrier Milfred*: A character dressed as a mail carrier (blue jeans, light blue polo shirt, etc.) enters the room and hands the leader a delivery envelope addressed to the leader from God.

Mail Carrier Milfred: Good morning, [leader’s name]. I have a very important package for you today!

Leader: Oh my! This does look important! It says it is from God!

Milfred: Well, what’s inside, if you don’t mind my asking?

[Leader opens package and finds a Bible. At this time, make no reference to the gift being a Bible.]

Milfred: Wow! You got a personal letter from God, and it’s a long one, too! Are you and God close friends?

Leader: Oh, yes, Jesus is my Best Friend. We have been friends ever since I asked Him to be my Savior and Lord [insert personal information, such as “when I decided to become a disciple”].

Milfred: Wow, I sure wish God could be my Best Friend. To me, God is just an old man somewhere in the sky.

Leader: Well, God really does want to be your Friend! He wrote this long letter called the Bible for everyone to read. In it, He explains His friendship and love for you. You should give it a read! [Gives the Bible.]

Milfred: Well, that does sound like a good idea! Thanks, friend! [Exits, reading the Bible.]

Leader: [Turns to kids.] Did you know that God wrote the Bible as a letter to you, too? He wants to be your Best Friend. That’s what we will learn about today.

*CHARACTERS: These are suggested characters and names. Please feel free to change or adjust to suit your kids’ needs and tastes.
Let's Search!—Bible Dash

**Supplies:** Bibles

Ask all kids with Bibles to participate, or invite a few volunteers to come to the front. As children hold Bibles closed with hands on covers, state the Bible reference twice, then on the command “SEARCH!” have the students race to locate the verse. Once they have a finger on the verse, they can stand and call out, “FOUND IT!” Have the first child read the verse aloud while you project the verse on a screen via PowerPoint. See suggestions below for comments on each verse. Keep your comments brief and to the point of the lesson.

- **John 15:12-14**  
  Everyone who obeys Jesus is His friend.
- **Hebrews 13:5**  
  Jesus will never leave us; He is our helper.
- **John 15:15**  
  Jesus calls us friends, not servants.
- **James 4:4**  
  We need to be friends of God, not of the world.
- **Proverbs 18:24**  
  One good friend is better than many bad friends.
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**  
  A good friend can help you get back up when you are down.

**Paul’s Power Principle:** Jesus is the best friend you’ll ever have.

Let’s Learn!—My Best Friend, Jesus  
**John 15:14-15**

**Supplies:** globe, cross, badge, small blanket

Today we are going to learn an amazing truth about Jesus.

1. **He is our CREATOR.** (Read Colossians 1:15-17. Show the class a globe and talk about how big, powerful, incredible, amazing, and huge Jesus must be to have made the world and still be holding it all together!)

2. **He is our SAVIOR.** (Read John 4:14. Show a wooden cross and review briefly how Jesus died for the world. Place the cross over the globe and talk about how wonderful it was for Jesus to die for the sins of others.)

3. **He is our MASTER.** (Read Luke 17:12-14. Show a badge and state that Jesus is the highest authority in the universe. When you see a person with a badge, you feel a sense of his or her power. Jesus not only has power over people, but He also has the incredible power to heal and calm storms—so we owe Him our lives and allegiance. We should live to serve Him.)

4. **He is our FRIEND!** (Read John 15:14-15. Show a blanket, and explain that it keeps us warm and close, just as Jesus promises to stay close to us, too. In this staggering verse, Jesus says that He no longer calls us servants, but friends! He wants to have a close, personal relationship with us!)

**What makes someone a friend? You “clik” with friends! You have things in common, such as:**

- **C—Calling:** Similar purposes and goals in life
- **L—Language:** Humor, passions, conversation, etc.
- **I—Interests:** Hobbies, sports, music, books, media, etc.
- **K—Knowledge:** School, expertise, career, etc.
When it comes to Jesus, we should “CLIK” with Him!

When we are friends with Jesus, our calling is to reach the lost, our language should please Him and reflect our faith, our interests should flow from our relationship with God, and our knowledge should grow according to the gifts and talents that God gave us! Being God’s friend is actually easy, because He made us!

The main thing that sets our friends apart from all other people is time. Friends are the people with whom we spend time. Therefore, the biggest way to tell that we are Jesus’ friends is by how much time we spend with Him.

Follow up: If you taught the DiscipleTown Unit How To Worship God, consider taking some time to review with the children how to have a quiet-time, or ask them how they are doing on their quiet-times.

Suggested Bible Narrative
The Calling of Matthew; Jesus Eats with Sinners—Matthew 9:9-13
This short story tells of Jesus’ reaching out to a tax collector, a person whom most Jews hated and thought was beyond God’s mercy. The religious leaders were quick to label other people as “sinners” because they were unable to see that in God’s eyes they were sinners, too. Jesus wanted everyone to see that He was a friend of “sinners” just as much as He was a friend of those who were “religious.” The same is true today. Even though we have sinned, Jesus wants to be our friend.

Dee’s Disciple Tip: If Jesus is our Best Friend, we need to keep that friendship active, just like with every other friendship. We do this through talking with Him and reading His Word. There is an old saying—“One week without Jesus makes one weak.” Make sure you have devotional time with Jesus this week!

KeyVerse
Topic: The Secret to Friendship
Reference: Philippians 2:3-4
The KeyVerse for this unit does not directly mention friendship, but it is a wonderful verse that reveals a secret about forming strong friendships. Encourage the children to memorize this verse during the next four weeks, and consider giving a small prize during the final week of this series to every child who can recite this verse perfectly. Read the entire verse together a few times, but this week work on memorizing just the first half.

This week’s key phrase is SELFISH AMBITION. Ask the children what they think selfish ambition is. Explain that this is when you try to achieve something so you can appear to be better than others. For your own selfish reasons, you take advantage of a situation to get ahead of your friends. Good friends, however, are not concerned with being better than their friends. Instead, they want the entire group to do well or they want to encourage their friends to succeed.

Write the first half of the verse on a board and have the children repeat it as you erase one word at a time. Soon they will be able to say the entire verse with no help!
Dramatize the Point

Act this out or read as a story. **Supplies:** three actors, one who plays a robot and will need some equipment to make him or her look like a robot

Two friends are playing, but as they talk about what to do, they cannot agree—so one of them gets frustrated and goes home. The remaining friend walks over to a tarp and uncovers a “robot” (the third actor). He tinkers with the robot and is excited when it finally turns on and works. He says, “Yes! My Robot Friend invention finally works!” The Robot Friend is very friendly and will do anything the child suggests; the robot always says, “Yes! That’s a great idea! Let’s do that!” The child and the robot start to play, and when the child wins, the robot says, “You win! You’re the best!” The child suggests something else, and the robot says again, “Yes! That’s a great idea! Let’s do that!” After four to five times, the child turns the robot off and instead calls his friend back. They argue a little over what to do but eventually agree to play checkers.

Ask the students, **Why do you think the child preferred his friend over the robot?**

Encourage responses. Perhaps having someone who always agreed with him was not as great as he thought it would be! In the end, we all want to have a friend with free will. That is why Jesus is such a great Friend, because He created us with a free will. We are not just robots who will always agree with Him! We can live while making our own choices and interacting with God. Free will makes life exciting and real.

Object Talks—The Dummy and the Letter

**Supplies:** video projection

The video clip for this lesson features Karl, the Kidologist, doing a short object lesson featuring a conversation between a replica of a letter from Abraham Lincoln and a crash dummy. They discuss how the Bible is a copy of a letter from God, who wants to be our friend and keep us safe. Use this short teaching video to show the kids or to train a leader to do the talk “live.”

**Featured verse:** John 20:31

Let’s Talk!—Small Group Discussion

Divide students into groups of five or six children. In these circles, have the children begin with the letter “A” and say a word that describes Jesus with each letter of the alphabet. For example, “A” could be “Amazing,” “B” could be “Beautiful,” “C” could be “Creator,” etc. Some letters will be challenging, so help the kids if they seem stuck on a certain letter for too long.

After the students complete the alphabet, have group leaders facilitate discussion by posing these questions to the children.

1) Who is your best friend? How long have you known him or her; why do you like him or her?
2) Have you ever had a friend who let you down? Do not use names, but what happened? How did it make you feel?
3) Is it hard to think of Jesus as a Friend? Why or why not?
4) How can we grow closer to Jesus as a Friend?
DiscipleTown Super Citizen

Choose a child to reward for good behavior in DiscipleTown today. Consider someone who shows in a concrete way that Jesus is his or her best friend.

Let's Pray!

Dear Jesus, thank You for being the Best Friend we could ever have. Your Word tells us that there is no greater love we could ever have than to have a friend lay down his life for us. That is exactly what You did when You died on the cross to forgive our sins. Thank You for loving us even before we first loved You; and thank You for forgiving our sins. Thank You for calling us friends instead of servants. It is an amazing honor to know we are Your children and Your friends! Help us treat You as a Friend by encouraging us to talk with You, spend time with You, and honor You with our lives. Thank You for promising to never leave us or abandon us. We promise to love You forever! Amen.

Cy's Challenge: Start every day this week by talking with your Best Friend, Jesus, in a short prayer.

Let's Review!

If you have extra time, use these review questions to keep the kids focused on the lesson until time to dismiss. A handful of candy will help you keep their attention. After each question, take a minute to reiterate the lesson point related to the question.

1) Mail Carrier Milfred said the Bible is like a ______ from God.
2) The globe was a reminder that Jesus is our ______.
3) The cross was a reminder that Jesus is our ______.
4) The badge was a reminder that Jesus is our ______.
5) Jesus is the best ______ we could ever have.
6) What makes someone a good friend?
7) What does C-L-I-K stand for?
For the Home

DiscipleTown Table Talker: Give each child a copy of this week’s DiscipleTown Table Talker. Be sure to show them how to put it together and encourage the kids to ask their parents to lead family devotions three times this week.

Parent Email: Copy and send the email below to help your parents connect with their kids during the week. Send them early in the week, but not on Sunday. As a courtesy, be sure parents have opted to receive these emails. Review and edit as necessary to reflect the lesson elements you have used. You can also find this email as a Microsoft Word document in your download bundle.

Dear Mom and Dad,

This week we began a series in children’s church called How to Make Good Friends. One of the most important skills we can teach children is the wise ability to select good friends. This first week’s lesson was about “My Best Friend, Jesus.” We can encourage children to choose positive friendships by introducing them to the model friendship: Jesus, the Friend of Sinners, and the One who will be their unconditional Friend. Children long for a best friend, and if they can discover that Friend in Jesus, they will be better equipped to evaluate all friendships. In addition, they will have a Companion who will help them become the type of friend who will be beacons for the world.

I encourage you to do these two things: talk with your child(ren) about their relationship with Jesus often, and use the DiscipleTown Table Talkers that we send home each week to engage family discussions about the topic of friendship. It is our prayer that your child(ren) will be equipped to make wise friendship choices, and we hope you will see some improvements in their friendships in the weeks ahead!

If you would like to talk with your child(ren) about the lesson, here are some review questions that you can use:

[insert review questions that apply to the segments you used.]

Partnering with you to form young disciples,

[Your Name]
Chip's Snack Time!

**Supplies:** peanut butter, jelly, crackers

Have the kids make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on saltine crackers. Explain to the children that there is just something yummy about peanut butter and jelly—they just belong together, just like Jesus and Me! We just stick together like best friends.

**Note:** If your church has a policy that prohibits the use of peanut butter, use honey. Make the point that JAM stands for Jesus And Me!

**Group Activity**

If your room is divided into two sides, a fun cheer-off between the sides of a room can liven up the class and discussion. Have a leader on each side lead the children in taking turns doing the following cheer toward the opposite side: “We love Jesus, yes, we do! We love Jesus, how ‘bout you?” The other side responds with the same cheer back. This can be repeated back and forth, and a contest of volume will be the likely result. Leaders can then bring it to a close when time is up, if it gets too loud, or if they declare a winning side!

**Dee-Cy-Paul Application Script**

At the end of this lesson, you will find a special puppet script relating to worship and featuring Dee, Cy, and Paul. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at DiscipleLand.com
DIRECTOR’S NOTES
The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud.

You will need a newspaper for the puppet to hold.

Leader: Hey, [puppet name]. What’s with the paper?
Puppet: I’m gonna take out a personal ad.
Leader: A personal ad? What for?
Puppet: I’m taking out an ad for...a new friend.
Leader: A new friend?
Puppet: [Sadly.] Yep. My friends have all let me down. So I’m looking for a new friend—a perfect friend.
Leader: Wow—a perfect friend, huh?
Puppet: You bet! All my friends have upset me at one point in time or another, but I’m sure the perfect friend is out there.
Leader: So tell me. In your mind, what makes the perfect friend?
Puppet: Well, the perfect friend should always be nice...
Leader: Sure.
Puppet: And the perfect friend will always be helpful and kind, will never be selfish, and will never abandon me.

Leader: I think I know someone just like that!
Puppet: You do? Who is he? Or she? I’m not picky.
Leader: Well, Jesus is the greatest Best Friend anyone could ever have because He will always love you and will never leave your side.
Puppet: Of course! I should’ve known that! I’ll take out an ad for Jesus!
Leader: [Laughs.] You don’t have to do that. All you have to do to become Jesus’ best friend is talk to Him often through prayer.
Puppet: That’s some of the best news I’ve ever heard!
Leader: Me, too.
Puppet: Awesome! I can’t wait to talk with my new best Friend!

*PUPPET: Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at DiscipleLand.com
DIRECTOR’S NOTES
The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud.
You will need a baseball cap, a small box to represent a handheld game, and a necktie.

INTRODUCTION
[Dee, Cy, and Paul are all on stage. Paul is wearing a baseball cap.]

Dee: Is that a new baseball hat, Paul? I really like it.

Paul: Thanks, Dee. It is new. My dad got it for me after I helped him clean out the garage.

Dee: I thought basketball was your favorite sport. How come he didn’t get you a basketball hat? [Cy and Paul laugh.]

Cy: Basketball is Paul’s favorite sport. I even remember one time when his love for an electronic basketball game almost made him miss time with a special friend.

Paul: [Looks at Cy.] Hey, you were the one who brought the game to me!

Cy: How about if we just tell the story? Dee can be your dad, and we can be ourselves.

Dee and Paul: Okay!

[Exit Dee, Cy, and Paul.]

SCRIPT
[Cy and Paul are onstage. Cy has a handheld electronic game attached to his hand.]

Cy: [Excitedly.] Paul, Paul, guess what? Dad bought me a new game! [Holds up to Paul.] Look, you hold it like this and it’s like playing basketball!

Paul: [Shakes his head.] I can’t play with it right now, Cy. My dad wants me to go visit Miss Leida with him. He’s going to mow her lawn and help her with some other stuff.

Cy: Miss Leida? Is she one of the ladies from church?

Paul: Yes, and she is really old. She’s a widow. My dad said that means her husband died. She lives all alone, so we go to her house sometimes and do stuff for her, like mowing the lawn.

Cy: Oh. [Pauses for a second.] Why don’t I go with you? You are too little to mow the lawn. We can play my game while we wait.

Paul: I don’t know, Cy. Let’s go find my dad and ask him. [Cy and Paul exit. Dee, Cy, and Paul enter. Dee is wearing the necktie and speaking in a man’s voice as Mr. Shepherd.]

Paul: Dad, can Cy come with us to Miss Leida’s?

Dee: Why sure, Paul. Cy is welcome to come.

Paul: Thanks, Dad! Cy just got a new electronic game. A basketball game. See? [Cy holds up the game.]

Dee: Oh, boys, if you come with me today you’ll have to leave this game at home.

Paul and Cy: Why?

Dee: I think that Miss Leida might be sad if you came and just played a game with Cy. There are lots of other people in the church who have offered to help her, but she prefers me to come because you always come with me. She says you are her special friend.

Paul: Really?

Dee: Really. I guess you could say that she chose you to come, not me. She said that you are smart and polite and very kind to listen to her stories. When you visit with her it makes her less lonely for her grandsons, who live far away.

Paul: Really?

Dee: [Laughs.] Really. She even said that she makes her special sugar cookies just for when you come to visit.

Paul: Wow. I didn’t know that she made them just for me. It makes me feel very happy that she chose me to be her special friend. Cy, I guess I can play your game another time.

Cy: That’s okay. Actually, if I run my game home, can I still come with you? Miss Leida sounds like a neat lady—I would like to meet her.

Dee: That’s wonderful, Cy. Of course you can come. Then both of you boys can visit with Miss Leida. Afterwards you can go back to Cy’s house and play his new game.

[Paul and Cy nod.]

Cy: That’s a great idea, Mr. Shepherd!

Dee: Well, let’s get going, boys!

[ Curtain.]
APPLICATION

Dee: Did you have fun at Miss Leida’s, Cy?

Cy: I sure did! When it was time to leave, she even said that I was her special friend, too.

Paul: Maybe it is because you ate so many of her sugar cookies! [The kids laugh.] And I was really happy that I went with my dad. It feels good to be a special friend.

Dee: Sometimes being a friend means giving up things that distract you from spending time with that person. We are all special friends to someone else, too. [To audience.] Kids, do you know who I am talking about?

Cy: [Jumping up and down.] I know! I know!

Dee: I was talking to them, Cy. [Points to children. Allows time for response.] That’s right, kids, Jesus has chosen you to be His friend. He is the best Friend, ever!

Paul: That’s right. [Looks at Dee and Cy.] Do my friends want to come have hot fudge sundaes with my family?

[Dee and Cy nod excitedly. Curtain.]
Each DiscipleTown Unit will teach your kids an essential "how to" skill to become victorious disciples of Jesus!