

Hey ClubE!

Has school started for you? Is it going to start soon? It might look a little different for you this year, or it might not. Either way, we have an amazing opportunity to grow from this year and share God's love with people who do not know him. Let's see where this year goes!

1. Watch my [short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today.
2. Sharing time. Our question today: Who was your *first* friend?
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to it [here](#).) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Optional: Do activity/game!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

Storytime!

Hey Team! Do you think friendship is important? Well, GOD certainly thinks friendship is important. He made us to have good relationships with each other. It's really important for us to learn how to BE a good friend and for us to have friends around us who encourage us and point us in the right direction.

There are some verses in the Bible that show us how important friendship is. We can find them in the book of Ecclesiastes. A lot of people believe that Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, who was a king over Israel. Solomon was actually King David's son. When Solomon became king, God offered him the choice of whatever he wanted. Solomon could have asked for ANYTHING. But he didn't ask for a million chicken nuggets . . . or endless video games . . . or to be ten feet tall. He asked for WISDOM. He knew that he would need wisdom from God in order to be a good king for God's people. God gave Solomon the wisdom he asked for, and Solomon is known as one of the wisest men who ever lived.

So why is friendship so important? Well, for one thing, friends get more done. Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NirV) says, "Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do."

Have you ever tried to move something heavy by yourself and just couldn't do it? But then you asked a friend to move it WITH you, and you were able to get it moved? Or maybe you're stuck on a level in your favorite video game. You might ask a friend to play it with you and show you how to get through that level. Maybe you just don't get how to do a math problem, but your friend talks through it with you and helps you understand it. That way you know how to solve that kind of problem on the next test. Having a friend makes it easier to get stuff done.

And that's not all friends do. Friends help each other. Ecclesiastes 4:10 (NirV) says, "Suppose either [person] falls down. Then the one can help the other one up. But suppose a person falls down and doesn't have anyone to help them up. Then feel sorry for that person!"

What do you think would happen if you went out to play soccer, but you forgot to tie your shoes so the laces were dangling down? Yep. You'd probably trip and fall! If that happened, you'd want someone to give you a hand and pull you up. What if YOU were the one who saw a friend fall down—would you just ignore them and leave them there? Of course not! You'd help them out. That's what friends do. Of course, that doesn't just happen when you're playing soccer. We have chances to help our friends all the time. If your friend is home sick from school, what could you do to help them? You could make them a card, or send them a joke that'll make them laugh. You could even do something REALLY nice, like bake some chocolate chip cookies that your mom or dad can give to their family. Cookies always make ME feel better!

Let's see . . . what else do friends do? Friends stand up for each other. Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NirV) says, "One person could be overpowered. But two people can stand up for themselves.

You see, a good friend will ALWAYS have your back—even when you feel overwhelmed or stressed out. But whenever your friend is around . . . you feel like you can take on anything.

If you don't make that layup, a good friend will be there to catch your rebounds. If you have an argument with someone, your friend can speak up for you and defend you. If you're just having a no-good, terrible, very bad day, your friend will be there to listen. A good friend will ALWAYS stand up for you!

What else can we find out about friendship in this passage from Ecclesiastes? Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NirV) says, "One person could be overpowered. But two people can stand up for themselves." Listen to what comes next. "A rope made out of three cords isn't easily broken.

A rope made out of three cords? What does that mean? Well, rope is made of different strands that are tightly tied together. One strand by itself wouldn't be very strong at all. With two strands woven together, the rope is stronger. And with THREE strands? You guessed it. Even stronger still. Friendship is like that, too. We're MUCH stronger with good friends around us than we would be on our own. And you know what? A lot of people think there's another idea here about the rope made of three cords. Your friendship is STRONGEST when it's between you . . . your friend . . . and God! Friends trust God together. The thing that can REALLY make a friendship strong is when you and your friend trust in God. That way you can remind each other that God is with you . . . that God loves you . . . and that you can stand up to any challenge with God by your side. You can PRAY with your friend—and know that your friend is praying for you, too. There's nothing better than a friendship where BOTH of you are following God!

It's super-important for us to have strong friendships. Friends get more done. Friends help each other. Friends stand up for each other. And most important of all . . . friends trust God together. We should try to be friends with everyone. But when it comes to the people you're CLOSEST to . . . those you spend most of your time with . . . those who you REALLY listen to . . . you need to ask yourself the question: does this friend help me trust God? Because THOSE are the kind of friends you need to be with most of all. Choose your friends carefully. You KNOW that someone will have a strong friendship with you if they have a strong friendship with

God. That's why it's so important to seek out people who trust God. Your closest friends should help you love God and love others, every single day.

Let's talk about it!

- Name some of your friends and why you love them!
- What makes a friend, a friend?
- Why do you think it's important to have good friends?
- Share a time when YOU were able to be a good friend. Why did you do this? How did it make others feel?
- What are you going to do this week to be a good friend?

Pray

“God, thank You for these verses that show us what a good friendship is all about. I pray as we go out this week, that we act out the wisdom that You gave Solomon. Please help us look for people in our lives who love You. We want to have friends around us who help us trust You—and we want to be that kind of friend for them, too. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen.”

Game time!

Better Together

WHAT YOU NEED: Balloons, a family member/friends

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Each team gets three balloons.
- For round one of the game:
 - One teammate from each team will try to keep all three balloons in the air while the rest of the teammates cheer.
 - You can use any part of their bodies to keep the balloons in the air, but the balloons cannot rest on your bodies or be held for any length of time.
 - The game ends when a balloon touches the floor.
 - Continue playing until everyone has had a chance to try.

For round two:

- Using the same guidelines, the entire team will work together to keep three balloons in the air.
- The team that can keep all three balloons floating in the air for the longest time wins

It was much easier to keep three balloons in the air as a team than by yourself, wasn't it? Today's verses are about how two people working together are stronger than just one person by themselves. Friends can help you and also make things way more fun! That's what friends do. They support each other, and they help each other. That's one of the reasons why God wants you to choose your friends carefully. He created us to have relationships with others. Finding friends is super important. But it's even more important to find friends who want the best for you and will help you trust God. And it's important to BE a friend who helps others trust God.