

Lesson 89: Jonathan Warns David
[1 Samuel 18:1-4; 19:1-7; 20:1-42](#)

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/lbOtH7r7SZQ>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/uiPb11NCf7g>

Worship Theme: God provides friends.

Memory Verse: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. Isn't He Wonderful <https://youtu.be/uFsMi06lhvE>
2. Jesus Loves Me This I Know https://youtu.be/R4MEw0jzZ_E
3. Here Has Love <https://youtu.be/iUGQmu1AmLI>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: "Remember the Name"

Materials Needed: Newspaper or water bottle



1. Ask the children to sit in a circle.
2. Select a leader and have him/her stand in the middle. Give him/her a rolled up newspaper or an empty water bottle to use to tag other children.
3. The leader will select one child to say a name of one of the children sitting in the circle.
4. Then the leader will run to tag the named child. In order to avoid being tagged, the named child has to say someone else's name, and the newly named child has to say yet another name. If the leader tags them before they say another name, they lose the game. If the leader does not know the name, then the leader loses the game. The loser will become the next leader.
5. After the game, explain to the children that they have to remember the names of people in order to become good friends with them.

Introduction:

How many of you have more than ten friends? Nine? Eight? Seven? Six? Five? How many of you have no friends? How would you feel if you go to school, but no one wants to be your friend? You'd have no one to play with and no one to talk to! Wouldn't that be sad? God knows that having friends is important for all of us. In fact, Jesus came to us to save us and to be our best friend! Today, we will learn about two people from the Bible who helped each other because they were good friends.

Bible Story:

In our Bible story today, King Saul had a son named Jonathan. One day Jonathan met David, who had killed Goliath. They liked each other from the very start and promised to be friends always. To show his friendship, Jonathan gave David some of his clothes and his sword and bow.

David and Jonathan were both brave soldiers. Both fought for King Saul, Jonathan's father. David became such a good warrior that the people loved him more than Saul. That made Saul angry. Saul wanted to kill David.

Jonathan told King Saul that killing David was wrong. He reminded his father that David helped him win many battles and that it was David who killed Goliath. Saul decided not to kill David. But later his anger and jealousy grew, and he again gave orders to have David killed. He even threw a spear at Jonathan, his own son, when he discovered that he was helping David. Jonathan warned David even though his father was mad enough

to kill him, too. He helped David run away to safety. But first they promised to be friends forever. Jonathan was a good friend to David because he risked his own life to help him.

David and Jonathan's friendship worked because they loved and cared about each other. A true friendship takes work from both sides. You have to take care of each other. God provides friends for us the way he did for David and Jonathan. Are you taking good care of your friends? Let's thank God for providing friends.

Questions to discuss:

1. What are the names of two good friends from the Bible story today? (Jonathan and David)
2. Who was King Saul? (Jonathan's father)
3. Why did King Saul want to kill David? (Because people liked David more than the King)
4. How did Jonathan show his friendship to David? (He even almost got killed as he tried to help David)
5. What are you willing to do for your friends? (share, love, be kind, etc.)

Game: "The Same"

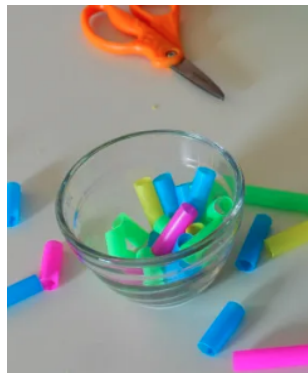
1. Ask the children to stand up, and when the teacher shouts out a word, the children have to find those who are the same as them. For example, if the teacher says, "Same age," then all the children who are the same age will gather together. The group with the most children will win the game.
2. Some other things to say: same grade, same age, same gender, same length of pants, etc.
3. After the game, explain to the children that they have more in common than they know. And this will help them to become closer and better friends.



Memory Verse: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13)

Craft: Friendship Bracelet

Materials Needed: Straws (different colors), scissors, strings



1. Cut the straws into small pieces.
2. Cut a string to wrap around the child's wrist (make it bigger so that you can tie it)
3. Put the small pieces of the straws into the string.
4. Tie the ends together.
5. Exchange this bracelet with your friend to show how much you care about them!
6. Make more if you have time to share with other friends.



7. After the children share the bracelets, explain to them that God gave them friends. We must be good to our friends by being caring and kind and helpful!

Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

Jesus is such a loyal friend that he died on the cross for us. He'll be pleased if we're faithful to our friends when it's tough to do. Read 1 Samuel 20:28-32. What did Jonathan give up to remain faithful to David? What have you ever had to give up to stay true to a friend? In what situation might you need to choose loyalty over something you desire? God wants us to be true to our friends. Commit today to stay loyal to your friends in ways that honor both God and your friends.