



FRIENDSHIP

BB4

Related values

compassion, kindness,
co-operation

Intro & Object

A Friend Ship



Equipment

Toy Ship or Picture
(Appendix E)

2 & 3 stranded rope

Game

Appendix B & D

The Friend Game!

Which Friend Is...?

Bible

Appendix A

1 Thessalonians 5:11, Proverbs 17:17

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Reflection

Appendix B

Who is the crew on our Friend-Ship?
How well does the crew work together?
What qualities are the sails made up of?

Song

suggestion

'Jesus is My Best Friend'
Yancy

Follow-up activity

Appendix B

Craft a paper boat and
name your crew and sails!

Suggested Entry Music

'You've Got A Friend In Me'
Randy Newman

Prayer

Thank you God that you LOVE
FRIENDSHIP as it was your
amazing idea in the first place!
Thank you that when we ask your
Holy Spirit for help and
encouragement, you breathe life
and love into our sails and off we
go on our FRIEND SHIP
adventures!

Notes:





Bible Bit (Part 1: Paul's friends)

The Bible is not just one book, but a whole library, 66 books with different types of writing and stories, songs and letters... let's explore it together. Some of the books in the Bible are letters, we call these epistles, these were written to people who were part of the early church, the first followers of Jesus. Let's imagine what it might have been like writing one of those letters...

Paul sat at his desk, his pen in his hands. He'd nearly finished writing a letter to his friends living in Thessalonica. Paul's friends had started their own church and were trying to live like Jesus, but it wasn't easy.

People often treated them unkindly and Paul's friends were scared and anxious. Paul wanted to be a good friend to them, but wasn't sure how to finish his letter.

What makes a good friend? Paul wondered to himself. Was there a passage from scripture that he could use to encourage them? As he sat thinking Paul remembered something that a wise King, Solomon had once written. "A friend loves at all times and a brother helps in times of trouble."

Even though his friends were going through a difficult time, and even though he was far away from them, Paul wasn't going to give up on them; in fact, these tough times were the perfect opportunity to be an even better friend!

That's what he needed to tell his friends in Thessalonica, that he was still there for them, even when they were facing challenges. Paul then remembered something else that King Solomon had written "Two people are better than one because they get more done by working together. If one falls down, the other can help him up".

That was the answer, even though Paul couldn't be there in person, he could remind the church in Thessalonica that they could be good friends who helped one another.

Paul picked up his pen and began to write "encourage each other and give each other strength, just as you are doing now". Paul smiled, yes, that was exactly what they needed to hear.





Bible Bit (Part 2: Aboard The Friend Ship)

The Bible has lots to say about FRIENDSHIP because God loves FRIENDSHIP and He knows when it is worked on and looked after, it's the best thing ever. In both the Old & New Testament, we find many wise words about how great FRIENDSHIPS can be, but also some warnings about what to try and avoid!

1 Thess 5 v 11: **"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up..."**

This scripture teaches us to use our words for good. We're called to offer comfort and hope, helping friends feel strong & encouraged.

- What does this look like aboard our Friend Ship?
- Are we building each other up with kind and encouraging words?
- Or are we causing our friends to feel sad sometimes with our words?

Proverbs 17 v 17 : **"Friends love through all kinds of weather..."**

- What does this look like aboard our Friend Ship?
- When it gets rough and stormy are we sticking with our friends and helping each other through the tough times?
- Or are we abandoning ship and leaving our friends to face life's storms on their own?

Ecclesiastes 4 vs 9-12 : **"It's better to have a friend than go it alone.**

Share the work, share the wealth.

And if one falls down, the other helps up...

With a friend you can face the worst.

Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily broken."

- What does this look like aboard our Friend Ship?
- Share the work – the heavy lifting is so much easier when you do it together!
- If one of you falls down then there is always someone else to help you get up.
- Having friends – and looking after each other makes you stronger and able to face anything that comes your way – good or bad.
- Look at this (have a 2 cord twist to show and a 3 or more cord plait) – 2 cords twisted together is ok but can be easily untwisted... BUT 3 or more plaited together will only get stronger and stronger and more and more difficult to unravel and break.

On a Friend Ship the stronger the rope (so the more friends) the better!





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Introduction / Object Lesson Show the children your toy ship with a cut out of the picture on the sails. Hands up if you can tell me what this is? Take answers and give more clues until someone says "It's a FRIEND SHIP!" How would you describe what FRIENDSHIP is? Take some answers.

Game: The FRIENDSHIP game (See *Appendix D for question suggestions*). Ask for 3 friends to come out. How well do they know each other? One stands facing front, one stands facing left and other facing right. Questions are asked and the friends have to point to themselves or one of their friends depending on what answer they think is right. How well do they know each other - are they answering the same? Ask the rest of the children if they think they could answer the same questions about their friends? Maybe at play time they could try the game out!

Reflection

I don't know if you've ever been on a big sailing yacht or ship but they're not easy things to manage on your own; in fact they are pretty impossible to work and sail alone. What most big sail ships need is a crew – a group of 2 or more people to work alongside each other to make the ship move forward and go in the right direction. You also need sails - they catch the wind and move the ship.

Can we imagine that the boat is our FRIEND SHIP and the crew is made up of you and your friends? The sails might then be the qualities you and your friends recognise you need to make your FRIENDSHIP the best it can be... maybe we can think of the sails as LOVE, TRUST, FORGIVENESS, KINDNESS. Qualities that God also thinks are really important in a good FRIENDSHIP. So what might be the wind that make the sails work and the ship move forward? The Bible teaches that that is where God's Holy Spirit is at work. Helping the FRIEND SHIP move in the right direction.

Let's pause and think about your own FRIEND SHIP – who is in your crew? What are your sails – what are the qualities important in your FRIEND SHIP? Maybe think back to what our Bible verses were reminding us of.

Beyond Belief: How can we go Beyond Belief and not just think FRIENDSHIP is a great idea but put our thoughts into action? What can I do this week to work with my crew to make our FRIEND SHIP even more ship shape and ready to sail? Take any thoughts from the children.

Follow-up Activity: Make a paper boat and write on it what your sails are and who is making up the crew on your Friend Ship.



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The Friendship Game:

Choose a few questions from the list below -

- Who is the kindest?
- Who is the funniest?
- Who is the best at sport?
- Who is the best at gaming?
- Who is the most imaginative?
- Who comes up with the best games to play at break-time?
- Who likes reading the most?
- Who enjoys swimming the most?
- Who is the most helpful?
- Who is great at cheering others up?
- Who is the quietest?



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Fill in the missing letters to guess the name of the ship



T _ _ F _ _ N _
_ _ I _