



Bible Story: I'll Be There for You (Jesus and Peter) • **John 21:1-19**
(supporting: **John 18:1-27**)

Bottom Line: Friends forgive one another.

Memory Verse: A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity. Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

Life App: Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care

1. Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Read • **John 21:1-19** (supporting: **John 18:1-27**)

- For older kids, work through the passages of scripture— spend time engaging in the passages with the kids. Think of questions you can ask them as you read these verses (Who, what, when, where, why how questions)

2. Target Toss

What You Need: Painter's tape targets, colored paper

What You Do:

- Assign each a different color of paper and ask the kids to wad their papers into tight balls. (Each kid should have several paper balls in their color.)
- Assign an area in your room for a "True" target and "False" target.
- Let the group know that you will ask true or false questions.
 - If the kids think the answer is true, they throw the paper ball into the "T" target.
 - If they think they answer is false, they toss the paper ball into the "F" target.
- Whichever family member lands the most paper balls in the correct target wins!

True/False Questions:

1. Peter promised Jesus that he would follow Jesus anywhere. (True)
2. Peter was sitting on a chair sipping soda when Jesus was arrested. (False)
3. Peter told ten people that he didn't know Jesus. (False – he told three people)
4. After Jesus was gone, Peter felt bad about denying Jesus. (True)
5. When Jesus came back everything was okay with Peter and Jesus. (False – Peter felt bad and wondered if Jesus was mad at him.)
6. Peter and the other disciples went fishing in the middle of the night and caught hundreds of fish. (False—they spent all night fishing and caught nothing.)
7. All the disciples saw a man standing on the lakeshore early in the morning after their fishing trip. (True)

8. Peter was so excited to see Jesus that he steered the boat to the shore. (*False- he was so excited to see Jesus that he jumped into the water and swam to Jesus.*)
9. Jesus started a fire and asked the disciples to eat breakfast with Him. (*True*)
10. After breakfast Jesus pulled John aside to talk to him. (*False- He pulled Peter aside to talk to him*)
11. Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter loved Jesus. (*True. The same amount of times that Peter denied Jesus.*)
12. Jesus told Peter that everything will be easy as a result of following Him. (*False- Jesus told Peter that life would be difficult.*)
13. Jesus forgave Peter so completely that he trusted Peter with the big job of caring for all his followers. (*True*)

What You Say:

“It bothered Peter that he was not a good friend to Jesus. When your friend does something to hurt you, you can’t actually erase what they did from your mind, but if you truly forgive them, you free yourself from having to always think about it and be angry about it. Forgiveness means you move on and show that friend you trust them again, just like Jesus showed Peter that He trusted him again. **[Make It Personal] (Talk about a time you restored trust with someone or someone trusted you again after you made a mistake.) [Bottom Line] Friends forgive one another.**”

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- Have you ever had to forgive a friend? What happened?
- Have you ever had to ask for forgiveness from a friend? How did it feel?
- How can you show forgiveness to a friend beyond just accepting their apology?
- What do you do when you forgive a friend but they keep hurting you in the same way? (*You can forgive, while also remembering week one: choose your friends carefully. If someone keeps showing you that they’re not a good friend, or are bad for you, you can choose wisely about the time you spend with them and ask an adult you trust for advice and help. BUT we should always offer forgiveness.*)

4. Lesson Recap and Prayer Journal

What You Need: Prayer journal, paper, something to write with, Bible

What You Do:

- As a family, **add to your prayer journal** or make a prayer journal if you have not already done so.
 - The Bible teaches us that the “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (*James 5:16b*). We are encouraging you to make a family prayer journal. It can be as fancy or as simple as you want. An example is provided on our Kids at The Heights Facebook Page! A prayer journal can be a tool to record your prayer requests and thanksgivings. It can also help you grow your faith as you keep a record of how the Lord answer your prayers.
- **Tell** the kids that you COMPLETELY understand that forgiveness can be so hard and we definitely shouldn’t let friends continue to hurt us. But friends forgive one another, even when it’s hard.
- **Pray** asking God for help forgiving:
 - “Dear God, thank you so much for your gift of forgiveness. Thank you for preserving the story of how Jesus forgave Peter so we could learn from it. And we thank You so much for forgiving us. Thank you for loving us no matter what. Please give us the courage to ask for forgiveness when we hurt others or upset them, and give us the courage and love to forgive others, too, when they hurt us. We praise you for the freedom that comes with forgiveness. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen!”