



Bible Story: Better Together (Two people are better than one) • **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Bottom Line: Choose your friends carefully.

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 Review

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Read **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**
- *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)*
- Explain how we can see from today's Bible story that there are four things friends do:
 1. Friends get more done.
 - a. What is a task or job that is easier to do with help?
 - b. What is a task or job that is more FUN to do with a friend?
 - c. Talk about a time when you helped a friend get a job done.
 2. Friends help each other.
 - a. How do friends help each other?
 - b. Talk about a time when you helped a friend. What happened?
 - c. Talk about a time when a friend helped you. What happened?
 3. Friends stand up for each other.
 - a. What does it mean to "stand up" for your friends? *(to keep playing with them even if other friends walk away; invite them to sit with you or play with you if they're alone; defend your friend if someone isn't being nice to them)*
 - b. How does it feel when someone stands up for you?
 - c. How does it feel when someone doesn't stand up for you?
 4. Friends trust God together.
 - a. What is one way you could help a friend learn more about God? *(pray for them, talk about what you learned at church, invite them to church, share a verse)*
 - b. How can you show God's love to a friend?
 - c. Have you ever prayed for a friend?

2. What Good Friends Look Like

What You Need: paper, pencils or crayons

What You Do:

- Pass out paper to each kid.
- Instruct kids to draw a great big person on their papers.
- Discuss the attributes of a good friend.
- Encourage the kids to color their pages and fill in the blanks with their answers to the questions below:
 1. Guide kids to point to the mouth and ask: What is something a good friend does with their mouth? (*encourages, cheers up someone who is sad, uses kind words, smiles*)
 2. Guide kids to point to the ears and ask: What does a good friend do with their ears? (*They LISTEN!*)
 3. Guide kids to point to the hands and ask: What does a good friend do with their hands? (*helps, shares, uses gentle hands, gives a high five*)
 4. Guide kids to point to the arms and ask: What does a good friend do with their arms? (*hugs, helps, comforts with an arm over your shoulder when you're sad*)

What You Say:

"This is a great picture of what a good friend looks like. Let's remember to **[Bottom Line] choose your friends carefully**. Let's be a good friend by (*point to different parts on the page as you review*) using our mouths to say kind words, listening with our ears so we can understand what our friends need, using our hands to help, and our arms to hug. God gave us these ears, mouths, hands, and arms because He loves us. And we can show God how thankful we are when we love others, too! Take this home as a reminder to **[Bottom Line] choose your friends carefully** and to be a good friend, too.

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What makes someone a good friend?
- Why do we sometimes put up with bad friends or choose to be friends with someone who isn't a good friend back to us?
- Why is it important to choose your friends carefully?
- How do your friendships make you stronger?
- What makes choosing friends carefully so difficult?
- What kind of friend are you? What kind of friend do you want to be?

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.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for showing us the importance of godly and healthy friendships. Help us be a good friend to those You have put in our lives by (*name a few good friendship skills from the activity page*). Please help us when we are tempted to not be a good friend by (*name a couple of bad friendship skills from the activity page*). Help us to rely on and trust You in our friendships because that is the only way you can **[Bottom Line] choose your friends carefully**, amen."