

FRIENDSHIPS/RELATIONSHIPS

4TH GRADE

OBJECTIVE

Help your child build friendships that are loving, Christ-centered, and built on kindness, honesty, and support.

WHAT TO KNOW

Fourth graders are developing stronger emotional connections with friends and beginning to care more about loyalty, trust, and being accepted. They're also starting to experience peer pressure and more complex social dynamics. This is a key time to help your child understand what real friendship looks like and how following Jesus helps us treat others with love, honesty, and forgiveness. The way you model friendships, speak about others, and respond to conflict continues to shape how your child builds relationships of their own.

TRUTH FROM THE BIBLE

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13 NIV
Jesus gave the ultimate example of friendship—sacrifice, love, and commitment.

The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.
Proverbs 12:26 NIV
This shows that the people we spend time with shape who we become.

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17 NIV
Good friends help us grow stronger in our character and faith.

Speak the truth in love. Ephesians 4:15 NIV
Real friendship means being honest—while also being kind and caring.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32 NIV
These verses teach us that forgiveness and encouragement are essential parts of strong, loving friendships.



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TALK ABOUT IT

- What do you think makes someone a good friend?
- Who helps you feel loved, included, and encouraged?
- How do you handle it when a friend disappoints you?
- What does it look like to forgive a friend or ask for forgiveness?
- What kind of friend do you want to be—and why?

Use these questions to help your child reflect on the friendships they're building and how their words and actions can either strengthen or damage those relationships.

LIVE IT OUT

Create a "Friendship Tree" together by writing or drawing good friend qualities on each branch, then talk about how your child can grow those traits in their own life. Encourage them to pick one quality—like patience, honesty, or encouragement—to focus on this week and find a way to live it out.

It might be including someone new at recess, forgiving a classmate, being honest even when it's hard, or encouraging a friend who's having a tough day. Check in at the end of the week and talk about how it went. These small, intentional choices help your child practice the kind of friendship Jesus modeled—loving, loyal, and full of grace.

PRAY TOGETHER

Ask God to help your child grow lasting, loving friendships and to be a good influence on others. Pray for courage to speak kindly, forgive quickly, and be a faithful friend.

"Lord, help me be a Christ-like friend. Teach me to love, forgive, and support others the way You do. Amen."

