

# FRIENDSHIPS/RELATIONSHIPS

## 1ST GRADE

### OBJECTIVE

Help your child understand what makes a good friend and how God wants us to treat others with love and kindness.

### WHAT TO KNOW

At this age, your child is learning how friendships work—what makes someone fun to be around, who feels safe, and how to handle differences. They're starting to notice which friendships feel easy and which ones feel tricky. It's normal for them to go through ups and downs with friends as they grow. Friendships can bring so much joy, but they also take practice, forgiveness, and a little guidance. Your child is watching how you treat others—learning just as much from what you say as how you act. You're still their biggest influence. When you model love, patience, and empathy in your relationships, your child is more likely to do the same. This is a key time to teach them that God wants us to love others well—not just when it's easy, but even when it's hard.

### TRUTH FROM THE BIBLE

*Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. Suppose either of them falls down. Then the one can help the other one up.* Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 NIV

This verse reminds us that friends are a gift from God—and we need each other, especially when life is hard. A good friend is someone who helps, encourages, and sticks with you no matter what.

In 1 Samuel 18:1–3; 20:1–42, David and Jonathan's friendship shows what real loyalty and love look like. Jonathan could have seen David as a threat, but instead he protected him and stayed by his side, even when it was risky. Their friendship shows us what it means to trust God, choose kindness, and love others like family. Even when things got complicated, they stayed true to each other. Their example reminds us that real friendship includes trust, honesty, and sacrifice.



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## TALK ABOUT IT

- What makes a good friend?
- Who are your closest friends right now?
- What do you like about them?
- What are some ways you can show love to your friends?
- What's something a friend has done that made you feel happy or safe?
- How do you think God wants us to treat our friends, even when we're upset or things feel hard?

## LIVE IT OUT

Show your child an old yearbook or childhood photo album and talk about some of your own friends when you were their age. Share what made those friendships special and how they helped you grow. Then talk about what makes a good friend today. If your child struggles with making or keeping friends, help them think through the traits they should look for in a friend—kindness, honesty, and shared interests. Practice simple ways to start and strengthen friendships, like saying someone's name, giving a compliment, asking a question, or inviting them to play. Try role-playing or using toys to act out friendship situations. You can even talk through what to do if a friend hurts their feelings or leaves someone out. The more they practice, the more confident they'll become. And remind them—it's okay to have more than one friend, and it's always a good idea to look for someone who might need a friend too.

## PRAY TOGETHER

Ask God to give your child wisdom in their friendships—to help them notice kind and loving people, to be brave in starting conversations, and to know how to be the kind of friend Jesus would want them to be. Pray for God to bring godly friends into their life who will help them grow in love and faith.

"Dear God, thank You for the friends I have. Please help me be kind, brave, and loving. Help me know how to be a good friend like Jesus. And please give me friends who help me love You and others better. Amen."

