



SEPTEMBER THEME

LUNCHROOM
Make Space at the Table

BIBLE STORY

John 13:34; 1 Samuel 20 (18-19)
Holding Out for the Arrows | Love
One Another

BOTTOM LINE

Friends love one another

MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times. They are
there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NlrV

LIFE APP

Friendship | Using your words and
actions to show others you care

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to
be treated, and with God's help...
I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **FRIENDSHIP** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

This WEEK: Key Question—What makes someone a good friend? At this phase in their life, kids are starting to experience the ups and downs of friendship. That's why we start with a foundational question to help them wrestle with what God says about having strong friendships with others. If they can recognize the qualities God desires for friendship, they'll not only choose friends who exhibit those, but hopefully will put them into practice for themselves.

We start the month with something Jesus said in **John 13:34**, "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you" (NlrV). Along with that, we'll take a look at one of the most famous friendships in the entire Bible: David and Jonathan. These guys went through a lot together. From making a promise to help each other to escaping the dangers of Jonathan's own father, King Saul, they showed us exactly what it meant for friends to love each other.

Bottom Line: Friends love one another. Loving our friends often means putting aside what we want to give our friends what they need. We pray that kids will learn how they can show love to their friends in everyday situations at home and school.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to prepare their hearts to dig deeper into what it means to be a better, more Christ-like friend. Pray that kids would walk away from today ready to love their friends in more tangible ways and that God would give them the courage to do it.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask the following questions and encourage each child to share:
 - What's a gift a friend has given you? How did you feel when you first saw it?
 - What's a gift you've given a friend? How did you feel when you gave it to your friend?
 - If you could give anything in the world to a friend, what would you give them? Why?



•• GUESS THE GIFT

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: 2 gift bags (1 filled with toys)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Without kids seeing, place one of the toys in the empty bag. Make sure the other toys stay hidden or behind your back until they get used.
- Tell them that you're going to pass around some mystery gifts that friends might give each other. Remind them not to say anything about the gifts! All of the gifts should be a surprise when they are finally revealed.
- Give the bag to one of the kids, without letting him see what's inside.
- Give him five seconds to reach inside and discover the object, feel it, shake it, and otherwise examine it without looking at it.
- Then help him to silently pass it around the circle, reminding him to keep his guess a secret.
- After each child has a chance to size up the gift, invite the group to guess what it is, and then invite a child to reveal it.
- Continue with the remaining gifts. Be sure to save the most challenging object for last.

What You Say: "Those were some great gifts. What's the best gift a friend has ever given you? *(Pause.)* What's the best gift you've ever given a friend? *(Pause.)* [Transition] **In Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we'll learn/we learned about one of the BEST gifts you can give to a friend."**

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children's Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• A FRIEND LOVES [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Bibles, "Memory Motions" activity page

What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up the verse using the navigation tips below.

Finding verses with Kindergartners and 1st graders: Open a Bible to the front and find the table of contents. *(Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.)* Lead them to find Proverbs in the list under "Old Testament." You can help by telling them that Proverbs starts with the letters P-R. When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 17. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 17 in chapter 17. Read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

- Using "Memory Motions" as a guide, teach kids the motions for "friend" and "love." Highlight the fact that the best gift friends can give each other is LOVE.
- Ask kids to name ways Jonathan showed love to David. *(He gave him his princely/royal things; he protected David/helped David stay*

