



NOVEMBER THEME

**HALL OF FAME**  
Everyone's a VIP

**BIBLE STORY**

**1 Samuel 18:1-11; 19:1-7; 20:1-42**  
You've Got a Friend | David + Jonathan

**BOTTOM LINE**

Honor others by putting them first

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves."  
Romans 12:10 NIRV

**LIFE APP**

**Honor** | Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are

**BASIC TRUTH**

I should treat others the way I want to be treated

**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

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

**Key Question: What are the best ways to honor your friends?** We all have the opportunity to be friends with all sorts of people, from those we like to those we "have to like." It can be difficult knowing how to navigate these relationships. We pray that the discussion this week will give practical ideas for how to honor the people in our lives.

This week, we continue David's story and his friendship with Jonathan. Throughout **1 Samuel 19-20** we discover that Jonathan should have been next in line for the throne, but instead he understood God's plans for David. Jonathan, in an ultimate act of honor and loyalty, gave David his robe, his sword, and his bow. In return, David makes a unique promise to look out for Jonathan and his family, even though they could be a threat to his kingdom.

**Bottom Line: Honor others by putting them first.** We can be very ego-centric, believing life is all about us all the time. But at some point, we should understand that putting others first is important. This is what Jesus did for us, and we can show others his love by doing the same.

**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 group member by name. Thank Jesus for being the ultimate example of what it looks like to put others first. Ask God to give kids opportunities to put others first, and pray that kids would be aware of these chances and take advantage of them. Pray that you would be able to guide today's conversation in such a way that kids are excited to honor others by putting them first.

●● **YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND**

*Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** "You've Got a Friend" activity pages, markers

**What You Do:**

- Give each child a "You've Got a Friend" activity page. Set out markers where everybody can share them.
- Encourage kids to color the figures to look like themselves and one of their friends.
- As kids create, invite them to tell you about their friends: how long they've known them, what they like about them, what they enjoy doing together, etc.
- If kids finish early, invite them to turn their papers over and draw something they enjoy doing with their friend.

●● **FIRST IN FRIENDSHIP**



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

**What You Need:** Paper strips, pens

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a paper strip and a pen.
- Ask the kids to write down one characteristic of a good friend. Examples: kind, loyal, trustworthy, good listener, etc.
- When they have finished, guide them to set their strip, face up, in the center of your small group table.
- When all of the strips are ready, ask: What is the MOST important quality to find in a friend?
- Kids will likely debate about what quality is most important.
- Let the kids work together to try and organize the statements in order of importance.
- Discuss the top three characteristics of a good friend based on their top three choices.

**What You Say:** “This is a GREAT list of ways to be a good friend. We could all be a good friend to others by *(list some of the characteristics you see on the table)*. [Transition] **Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about two friends who understood how to honor one another.”**

*[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to Fellowship Hall for Children’s Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]*

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## 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.

•• **SHOOTING ARROWS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

**Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group**

**What You Need:** 2 bendy straws, clear tape

**What You Do:**

- Create an arrow by bending the tops of the straws in opposite directions and taping them together.
- Ask one of the review questions below and allow anyone to answer it. Keep trying until the right answer is given.
- Whoever answers correctly will be given the chance to throw the arrow as far as they can *(from a pre-determined starting point)*. After throwing the arrow, they should mark the spot where it landed by standing there.
- Play continues with the next review question. Whoever answers correctly gets to throw the arrow from the starting point. If it lands farther away than the first player, he should mark his spot and the first player should sit down. If it does not land farther away, he just sits down.
- Continue until all of the questions have been answered correctly. The player who threw the arrow the farthest is the winner!

**Review Questions:**

1. In today’s Bible story, who is the king? *(Saul)*
2. Who had God chosen to be the next king after Saul? *(David)*
3. Who was Saul’s son? *(Jonathan)*
4. Who was Jonathan’s best friend? *(David)*
5. Was Jonathan jealous of David? *(No)*
6. Why did Jonathan not feel jealous toward David? *(Because they were best friends and he put David first)*
7. What did Jonathan give David to show him that he was his best friend? *(He gave him his robe, his sword, his belt and his bow and arrows.)*
8. What did Saul throw at David in a fit of jealousy and rage? *(His spear)*
9. Why do you think Saul tried to kill David? *(He was jealous of all the attention David was getting; he wanted everyone to honor him)*



as the king)

10. What was the plan David came up with? What did he ask Jonathan to do? (*David would hide during the feast. When King Saul asked where David was, Jonathan would say he was visiting family. If Saul became angry, Jonathan would know that David wasn't safe there.*)

11. Jonathan promised to help David with this plan. What did Jonathan ask of David? (*Jonathan made David promise to always be kind to him and his family*)

12. What happened at the feast when Jonathan explained why David wasn't there? (*Saul was so angry that he threw his spear at his own son!*)

13. After Jonathan shot the arrows telling David that it wasn't safe, what happened? (*David and Jonathan hugged and cried because they knew David couldn't stay there. David would have to leave and go into hiding. Jonathan chose to put his friend first by helping him escape.*)

**What You Say:** "That was a SUPER fun game! But man, this is a crazy story. You would think that Jonathan would be jealous of David like his father was. After all, as the king's son, you would assume that Jonathan would become the next king. But what did Jonathan do instead? (*pause for responses*) Yes, he chose to honor his friend by putting him first. Why do you think Jonathan did this? Talk about a good friend! Jonathan put David first and tried to protect him, even when it put his own life in danger. Jonathan understood how to **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first.**

"Honor for us won't be quite so crazy. We won't have to dodge spears or shoot arrows into a field as a warning signal. But we will have to put our own wants and needs aside in order to think of others first."

**[Make It Personal]** (*Tell your group about a time when a friend chose to put you first. Maybe they did something kind for you and it was very inconvenient for them or it cost them something. How did it make you feel?!*)

●● **THANK YOU CARD** [Live for God | Application Activity]

**Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing**

**What You Need:** "Thank You Card" activity pages, pens, markers

**What You Do:**

- Hand out a "Thank You Card" to each group member. Set out pens and markers where everybody can share them.
- Encourage the kids to think of one person they want to give a card to in order to show them honor.
- Inside the card, kids should write a short note thanking the card recipient for being a great friend. Help kids be specific about what qualities the friend has that makes them valuable and worthy of this honor. (*Think back to the qualities your group came up with in the "First in Friendship" activity. If your group did not do this activity, take a few minutes now to brainstorm the top 3 characteristics of a good friend.*)
- Use the markers to decorate the cards.

**What You Say:** (*Use the following questions to lead your group in a conversation...*)

- When is it hard for you to put others first?
- What happens in your friendships if all you ever think about is yourself or what you want?
- Think about the list of qualities in a good friend that we made earlier. Can you be this kind of friend if you're only thinking about yourself?

"We **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting THEM first**, not US first. These cards look great! Because we're learning that to be a good friend, you need to put others first, let's choose a friend to give our card to as a way of honoring them and putting them first."

●● **MEMORY VERSE LINE UP** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

**Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body**

**What You Need:** Bibles

