



**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 NIV

**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.

**•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

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

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to stand with their hands on their knees.
- Ask a series of "Would you rather be first or last..." questions, guiding kids to stand up if they'd rather be first and squat low if they'd rather be last.
- Remind them to "get ready" for the next question by putting their hands on their knees again.
- You might ask: Would you rather . . .  
...be first or last in line at a restaurant?  
...be first or last in line for a kickball game?  
...be first or last in line for ice cream?



...be first or last to be called back at the doctor's office?  
...be first or last in line at school?  
...be first or last in line for a carnival game?  
...be first or last to choose a prize from a prize bucket?  
...be first or last in line for a movie?

**What You Say:** "Sometimes it's really fun to go first, isn't it? (*pause for responses*) Other times we'd rather wait until the end...like when it's something we really don't want to do, right? (*pause for responses*) But today we're talking about how it's important to think of other people before we think of ourselves...to put them first so that we are loving them the way God loves them."

### •• 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, crayons

#### **What You Do:**

- Give each child a "You've Got a Friend" activity page. Set out crayons 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.

**What You Say:** "It was fun to hear about your special friends! [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about two more very special friends."

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to Fellowship Hall 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.

### •• OTHERS FIRST [Live for God | Application Activity]

**Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment**

**What You Need:** "Friends" coloring sheet, crayons

**What You Say:** "In today's Bible story, we learned about how David had a really, really good friend. Do you remember his name? (*pause for responses*) That's right! His name was Jonathan. Remember, Jonathan was the prince, and usually the prince is the one who someday becomes the king. But David had been chosen to become the king when Jonathan's dad, Saul, was done. You would think this would have made Jonathan really mad, but he loved David like a very best friend and so instead of being mad, he was happy for his friend. Pretty great, huh? (*pause for responses*) But the thing was, King Saul was the one who didn't really like it that David had been chosen to follow him as king and he wanted to hurt David. Do you remember what Jonathan did? Did he help his dad, King Saul, hurt David so Jonathan could become king or did he help David get away so he was safe? (*pause for responses*) That's right! He helped his friend get away so he stayed safe. What a good friend that was. He really lived out our Bottom Line, [Bottom Line] **honor others by putting them first**, didn't he? What a good friend!

#### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid a "Friends" coloring sheet and one crayon making sure that nobody has the same color (*so they have to share when they want a certain color*)



**What You Say:** “Oh man! I can’t wait to color this picture. But, wait a minute! I only have one color to use! Oh! And so do you! It’s kind of hard to decorate this picture of some good friends with only one color, isn’t it? What do you think we could do about that? *(pause for responses)* Sure! We could share our crayons so we all can make some beautiful creations! That’s a great way to **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first**. When we let someone else use the color we want first, we’re honoring them, aren’t we? So how about we put all of our crayons in the middle and honor each other by sharing. Would that be a good idea? *(pause for answers)* Great! Let’s color!

**What You Do:**

- Put all the crayons in the middle and take turns sharing them.

**What You Say:** “Wow! That was fun! Thanks so much for living out our Bottom Line, **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first**. It’s such an important thing to remember because when we do it, we are treating others like they matter to God, and that’s a great thing!”

●● **AIM TO PUT OTHERS FIRST** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

**What You Need:** “Rock” activity page, “David and Jonathan Cards,” sharp crayon

**What You Do:**

- Have your group line up in a single file line.
- Set the “Rock” activity page on the floor about six feet in front of the first person in line. Place a set of “David and Jonathan Cards” face down on the “Rock.”
- Give the first child a sharp crayon. Tell your group to pretend the crayon is an arrow.
- Guide the first child to hold the arrow, aim, and throw. *(You can encourage gross motor development by guiding kids to aim the arrow, pull it back, step forward, release the arrow, and follow through.)*
- If the arrow lands beyond the “Rock,” the kid retrieves one of the “David and Jonathan Cards.” If it doesn’t land beyond the rock, the kid can try again before relinquishing his turn.

NOTE: Adjust the distance between the kids and the rock as necessary to increase or decrease the level of difficulty.

- When your group gathers all the cards, work together to put the scenes in order.
- Briefly review the following key points of today’s Bible story:
  - After God chose David to follow Saul as King of Israel, David became best friends with Saul’s son, Jonathan. But instead of being jealous of David, Jonathan put David first. He gave him his robe, belt, sword, bow, and arrows.
  - David promised to always be kind to Jonathan and his family.
  - King Saul became very jealous of David and planned to kill him.
  - Jonathan told David to hide in the field by a stone. After a special feast, Jonathan would go to the field and pretend to practice shooting arrows. If he told his servant “the arrows are close,” David was safe. But if he said, “the arrows are far beyond,” then David should run away.
  - At the feast, King Saul noticed that David was missing. Jonathan said that David had gone with his family. Saul became so angry that he threw a spear at Jonathan!
  - Jonathan went to the field, shot the arrow, and told his servant that it went far beyond.
  - Jonathan sent the servant away and then met David. He said, “Go in peace. We have promised to be friends forever.”
  - David left the city to hide from Saul, while Jonathan went home. Jonathan could have allowed his father to kill David, and maybe become king himself. But instead, Jonathan trusted God and chose to put his friend first.

**What You Say:** “Jonathan was King Saul’s son. He was a prince! And as a prince, he was supposed to be king someday. But instead of thinking that he was better and more important than everyone else, Jonathan put his friend, David, first. He loved him and protected him. What are some ways you can put others first this week? Could you let your friend choose which game to play? Could you let someone go ahead of you in line? Could you let your brother or sister choose which movie to watch? How else could you **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first**? *(pause for ideas)* Those are some great ideas! So remember: **[Bottom Line] honor others by putting them first**. Because when you do, you’ll be loving them with God’s love—and that’s always a great thing!”

