



OCTOBER THEME

MORE THAN FRIENDS

SCRIPTURE Matt 22:37-39; John 3:16;
Gen 1:26-27; Phil 1:6; 1 Cor 13:4-8

BOTTOM LINE Ideal Image



- Be sure to look at the large group interactions so you know what things to draw your kids' attention to throughout large group.

MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:

**THINK
ABOUT THIS**

This month in StuMin our theme is More Than Friends. At the heart of this series are strategies for bringing our faith into our significant relationships. While we'll spend a lot of our time focusing on dating, much of what we talk about can be applied to friendships and other relationships. Tonight we are going to have a conversation about the way that our ideal image of relationships affects how we participate in relationships. An ideal image is the collection of symbols, ideas, and beliefs that make up your vision of a particular idea. In this case, it is our ideal image of relationships that develops over time. The real key in our conversation will be to identify how our faith influences our ideal image.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Large Group Interactions

- **Ideal Image Skit Debrief-**

1. What are the messages that you see on the wall?
2. What are the messages that you connect with in your story?
3. What messages do you not see on the wall that you would add?
4. Where do you see faith playing a role in the ideal image of these characters?
5. What messages from your faith (your time in church, your own learning, what you've picked up from friends, music, and other places) would be part of your ideal image?



Small Group Study

Connect

Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests - Share your “highs” and “lows” with the group and then gather prayer requests to distribute to the group for prayer throughout the next week. You can get paper for this activity at the leader bin cart or you can have the students use their phones. We suggest setting up a “group chat” using one of the following platforms: iMessage on iPhone, email, groupme, snapchat, instagram, or facebook.

Questions

- Describe the perfect friend or significant other. What are you looking for in that person?
- Think about a relationship that you admire (could be friends, parents, TV). What is it that you admire about that relationship? What makes that relationship “good”?
- Think about a relationship that is dysfunctional. What makes it dysfunctional or bad?
- Do you think that your opinions are similar to your peers? Are there universals when it comes to what makes a good or bad relationship? Why or why not? What are they?
- How has your faith informed what you believe about relationships? What does God say about relationships? What are specific messages, symbols, or images that you associate with Christian relationships?
- Do you think that the way that Christianity informs relationships in our culture is positive or negative? Why?

Notes and Prayer Requests

EXTRAS

Christian Dating Advice

What You Need: Phone and Internet

What you do: Below are links to three satirical videos about dating for Christians. Watch the videos and then talk about the messages about dating you saw. Which messages do you think operate in your relationships? What messages do you think operate in our culture? Are there some that we should keep? Some we should dump?

Post-Date Hug - <https://youtu.be/rUuZiDjL3oQ>

Stuff Christian Singles Say - <https://youtu.be/0QpSCNfzuyM>

Christian Tingle - <https://youtu.be/Ljd7f2tFOak>

JUST FOR FUN

Family Feud Game

What You Need: Some kind of buzzer, split group in half, questions will be in your bin

What You Do: Split your group in half. They choose one participant from each group to answer questions each round. They get three strikes as a group. After which the other group gets to answer the question. They get one chance. Group with the most correct answers wins.