

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

BIBLE DISCOVERY

"Forever Friends"

Recommended for: All

LESSON AIM: To teach the children what a "friend" is and how important each one is. Also, to recognize ways to show true friendship.

MEMORY VERSE: *"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13 (NAS)*

SUPPLIES: See below, dependant upon chosen activities and age group.



Working Together
Relay

OPENING: Play the relay game "Working Together."

Items needed: Inflated balloons. Divide the group into teams (between three and eight members on a team. Each team gathers at starting line and makes a tight circle with their hands extended into the middle. Each team member grabs a hand of two other team members in a crisscrossing pattern. The teacher places a balloon on the top of each team's grasped hands. (See sketch) When the teacher says "Go!" each team runs to the finish line and back, keeping the balloon on top of their grasped hands. If a team lets the balloon drop, or lets go of a partner's hand to balance the balloon, they must start over. The first team to complete the race wins.



BIBLE DISCOVERY: Study the story of Jonathan and David in I Samuel 18:1-16. David and Jonathan had a strong friendship. There was no jealousy between David and Jonathan, even though the people favored David. David always showed respect to Jonathan's father, Saul, even though Saul sometimes had a bad attitude. Ask the following questions: How was Jonathan a friend to David? What did Jonathan give to David? How did David behave toward Saul? Was Jonathan jealous of David? How can we follow Jonathan and David's example? Relate the importance of friendship to the children and have a discussion on ways to show true friendship.



ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

Younger Children: Make special “friendship cards” using materials from the following list:

construction paper	glue and glitter
crayons/markers	finger paints
different types of stickers	

NOTE: Provide a poem or verse about friendship to glue on the inside of their cards.

Make “Pudding Paint Friendship Cards.” Mix one box of instant pudding (sugar-free can be used) with enough water to finger paint consistency. Give each child a piece of construction paper and approximately one tablespoon of the pudding paint (use small paper condiment cups or cupcake papers to spoon the pudding paint into beforehand if desired). Encourage the children to make pretty designs or hand prints with their pudding paint on the construction paper. Provide a poem or verse about friendship to glue onto their card.

Older Children: Have the children invite a special friend to Bears (who they consider their best friend). Promote a week or two before and send notices home for the parents explaining the activity. Plan a party with refreshments and games to make the visitors feel welcome. Decorate the room with GNBC balloons (available through Resource Center) and banners beforehand. Remember, a child’s best friend could be a family member or an adult that they deeply respect.

Make “Friendship Bracelets”: Use embroidery floss (can be purchased at most needle craft shops). You will find shops listed in your local “Yellow Pages,” usually under “Needlework” or “Art Needlework Supplies.” The instructions for making friendship bracelets is as follows:

Helpful hints:

1. When working with long lengths of Embroidery Floss, the thread may become tangled. To avoid this problem, simply wind the excess thread into a small manageable ball and wrap it with a small elastic band. As your cord progresses, unwind small amounts of thread as needed.
2. Use masking tape to secure your thread to a surface while you work. It may be helpful to periodically move the tape lower as work progresses. You could also use a safety pin to hold your work - simply pin it through the large knot to your jeans and start knotting!

Style No. 1

COLOR ORDER (lengths need to be long enough to fit around the persons wrists that the friendship bracelet will be given to plus extra for ties at both ends). Take three strands each of 3 different colors (A, B, and C). Tie all 9 strands together and secure to a surface (leave a 2" tail on both ends).



NOTE: The three strands of each color are worked together



Step 1: Holding colors A, B, and C, taut, take color C and place it over Color B.

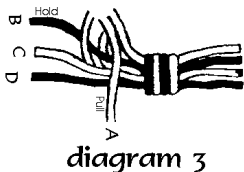
Step 2: Pick up color A and place it over color C (see diagram 1).

Step 3: Pick up color B and place it over color A.

Repeat steps 1-3 (see Diagram 2) until the friendship bracelet is the desired length. Tie all 9 strands together, leaving a 2" tail. Tie on wrist using both tails to form a bow or knot.

STYLE NO. 2

COLOR ORDER (lengths are tripled for this version because of the process): One strand each of 4 different colors (A, B, C, and D). Tie all four strands and secure to a surface (leave enough of a tail to tie later).



Step 1: Take first strand A and wrap it over, then under strand B (see diagram 3).



Step 2: Hold firmly onto strand B while pulling up on strand A towards large knot you made in the beginning.



Step 3: Repeat steps 1 and 2, making a second small knot on top of previous knot. You have now completed a double knot around strand B. Drop strand B (see diagram 4).

Step 4: Now take strand A and make a similar knot around strand C, wrapping strand A over, then under strand C (see diagram 5). Make a second knot around strand C to complete a double knot. Drop strand C.

Step 5: Make a double knot with strand A around stand D. Strand A will be at far right side of row now that all double knots are completed (See diagram 6). You will notice that this first row of double knots slants diagonally down towards the right.



Step 6: With strand B work a second row of double knots, with strand C work a third row of double knots with strand D work a fourth row of double knots. You will now have completed one full color pattern.

Continue repeating this 4 row pattern until the desired length. Tie all 4 strands together, leaving a tail long enough to tie on person's wrist into a bow or knot.

SNACK: For a "Friendship Party" plan special refreshments. Make heart-shaped cookies or heart-shaped single layer cakes. Have the children decorate the cookies or cakes with frosting and sprinkles (decorating candies).

Younger Children: Make pudding cones by taking ice cream cones (available in grocery stores) and fill with pudding if you have chosen the pudding paint activity.



CONCLUSION: Close with them praying for the friend that they invited or made the bracelet for.