

BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Bible Point:  **FRIENDS ARE LOYAL.**

Objective: *Children will consider what makes friends loyal.*

Supplies: Bible, red poster board or other paper, paper, scissors

Preparation: Cut the poster board into a large heart and cut hearts from the paper (one heart per sheet of paper per child).

SAY: When young David beat the giant Goliath, the man who ruled over Israel at that time was King Saul. The king had a son, Jonathan, who became best friends with David. Jonathan and David were loyal friends. Hold up the poster-board heart and say: **Hearts are a symbol of love. One way to show love is by being loyal: sticking by your friends no matter what.**

ASK: • I wonder what kinds ways friends could show that they love each other.

When children answer, hand each child a paper heart.

SAY: Those are all great ways to show friends that you love them. I love all of you, so I'll give each of you a paper heart. Hand out the rest of the paper hearts.

Another way friends show that they love each other is by giving each other presents. I love presents!

Open the Bible to [1 Samuel 18](#), and point to it. **SAY:** The Bible says that Jonathan gave his robe and sword to David. Think about it: Jonathan (who was a king's son) gave David (who was a servant) good presents! What a great way for friends to show that they love each other! Have kids make heartbeat sounds by using one hand to hold the paper hearts on their chests and then patting them with the other hand.

In [1 Samuel 20](#) we find out how Jonathan showed he loved David by protecting him from his father, King Saul. King Saul wanted to hurt David because he was jealous of David. David was loved by the people of Israel more than Saul was. Jonathan was loyal and protected his friend David. Wow! What a great way for friends to show they love each other! Make heartbeat sounds.

Read aloud [Proverbs 17:17](#), "*A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.*" and then ask:

- What does this verse say friends do for each other?
- What are some ideas we can show our friends we love them even if we can't be together right now?



BETWEEN YOU AND ME

Objective: *Children will make friendship bracelets to give away.*

Supplies: various colors of cross-stitch floss in 12-inch strands, safety scissors, tape

Explain that children will make friendship bracelets as reminders of the gifts Jonathan gave to David. Allow each student to choose six strands of cross-stitch floss, two of each color. Have students adjust strands so the ends line up evenly, and then tie a knot at one end. Be sure they leave a tail of 1 1/2 inches at the end.

Instruct kids to tape the knotted end to the edge of a table. Lead them through the following instructions, helping those who are having trouble.

- 1.** Arrange the two strands of color A together, the two strands of color B together, and the two strands of color C together.
- 2.** Wrap the strands of color A over, and then under, color B. Pull down on color B as you tighten color A. Then wrap color A over and under color B and tighten.
- 3.** Wrap color A over and under color C and tighten. Repeat.
- 4.** Wrap color B over and under color C and tighten. Repeat. Wrap color B over and under color A and tighten. Repeat.
- 5.** Wrap color C over and under color A and tighten. Wrap color C over and under color B and tighten. Repeat.

Have children continue in this sequence until the bracelets are the desired length, and then have them tie all the strands together. Have them trim and leave a 2- to 3-inch tail.

When students are tying their bracelets, have them state three characteristics they like about the person they're going to give the bracelet to. Children can also state how God has used their friend to bless them.

They could mail it to their friends or carefully deliver it to them.

Bible Application

FRIENDSHIP COMMITMENT

Supplies: balloons, slips of paper, pencils

Give each person a balloon, a slip of paper, and a pencil. **SAY:**  **FRIENDS ARE LOYAL. There are lots of other qualities of good friends. On your slip of paper, write one quality you want to develop or strengthen.**

Have kids each place their slip of paper inside their balloon, inflate the balloon, and tie it off.

SAY: **When your balloon loses its air in a few days or a week, cut it open and read the paper as a reminder of your desire to improve a friendship-building quality.**

Science Devotion

FRIENDS STICK TOGETHER

Supplies: 2 pieces of paper per child, pens a few spray bottles full of water, various stackable plastic containers, paper plates, stackable plastic drinking glasses

Give each child two pieces of paper and a pen and say: **I'd like you to draw pictures of some things a friend has done or said that made you angry.**

Give kids a few minutes to do this, and then say: **See if you can get your two pieces of paper to stick together without folding them.** Pause. **It doesn't work, does it? Sometimes when a friend says or does mean things to us, we don't want to be that person's friend anymore.**

Give a few kids the spray bottles and say: **Now I'd like you to take turns spraying a little water on your pieces of paper. After you've done that, try to get them to stick together.** Give kids a few minutes to do this, and then invite them to repeat the experiment with the plastic containers, the plastic drinking glasses, or the paper plates.

ASK: • **Why do you think these things stuck together when they were wet?**

SAY: **The molecules in water are very attracted to each other, so they stick together really well.**

ASK: • **When have you had to stick by a friend?**

- **What are some things you could do to stick by a friend?**
- **What could happen if you don't stick by a friend?**

SAY: **When we stick by our friends even when bad things are threatening to pull us away from them, we show our friends what God is like. God is the best friend of all, and he sticks by us no matter what.**

LEANING PRAYER

Objective: *Children will pray for loyalty while leaning on each other*

One of the best ways children can learn to be loyal is through praying for one another's needs. During the prayer, have everyone put their arms around each other in a circle.

SAY: Dear Lord, thank you that we can always lean on you. As we lean on each other, help us remember to be loyal friends. Help us to remember to pray for each other. Amen.