

2.11 FORMING FRIENDSHIPS

Topic: Becoming a Friend of God

Subtopic: Forming Friendships

2. Love God

Class: Standard II (2nd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: When asked how to develop friendships, students will name at least two basic things.

Attitude: Students will demonstrate the ability to form friendships.

Materials Needed:

Exercise Books

Memory Verse Exercise Book

Ball of yarn (twine) optional

Scripture:

References: II Kings 4:8-16a

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "Friends always show their love." Proverbs 17:17 GNB

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Each of you probably has someone you call your friend. What determines that that person is your friend?

Bible Story:

2. Tell story of friendship between Elisha and Shunamite lady from II Kings 4:8-16a.

Suggested Discussion Questions

3. What did the Shunamite lady notice Elisha needed?
4. What did she do to meet Elisha's needs?
5. How did Elisha feel about her kindness?
6. What four things helped this friendship develop?

Application:

7. What can you do to make new friends?
8. How much do friends care about each other?

Evaluation:

9. Is there someone you know who is lonely and needs a friend? How can you befriend that person?
10. Have you ever thought that God wants to be your friend?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Students will describe what they understand about characteristics of being friends.

Bible Story:

2. Students listen for key factors that build a friendship from this story.

Possible Answers to Questions:

3. A place to rest and eat
4. Opened her home to Elisha; built a guest room where he could come any time he was in the area
5. He wanted to give something back to her to show his appreciation.
6. A. A friend notices what the other needs and finds a way to help the other. B. Have common interest (a shared faith) C. Desire to do for each other D. Respect for each other

Application:

7. Notice if someone is in need and befriend that person. Ask God to help you make a new friend.
8. Friends are always there for the other as Proverbs 17:17 says. Students will repeat memory verse.

Evaluation:

9. Identify someone they plan to befriend.
10. Begin to think how to befriend God.

Extension Activities

1. Have students write their new memory verse in their Memory Verse Exercise book: "Friends always show their love." Proverbs 17:17 GNT
2. In the exercise book, have the students write at the top of the page ""Making Friends". Then have them draw a picture of someone befriending another.
3. Friendly practice assignments. During this week, watch to see how you can be a friend. Here is your assignment.
 - A. Do something nice for someone you don't like very well.
 - B. Be prepared to talk about how the people you befriended reacted to your kindness and comment on how you felt after doing this.
4. Make a backrub train. If possible have the children sit on the floor or take them outside and sit on the ground in a circle with their backs to each other. Once they are in place, suggest that they put their hands on the backs of the persons in front of them and gently rub their backs. As they rub the person's back, tell them to think happy thoughts about the person's back they are rubbing. Then have them turn around and give a back rub to the person who was behind them. Talk about how it felt to have a back rub. How did it feel to give a back rub? Did it make them feel relaxed? Sometimes a friend will give a backrub to the other. It says you care. It says that you know they are tired and need to relax.
5. Friendship web. Have a ball of yarn/twine. Sit in a large circle, split into two if needed. The ball starts with one child. Hold onto a piece of yarn and throw the ball to a person across the circle. Say one nice thing about that person. That person holds onto the piece of yarn and throws the rest to another person and says something nice about that child. This continues until all have received the ball and a kind word.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible story

1. Elisha was a man of God who traveled from place to place to do the things God wanted him to do.
2. A lady in Shunem noticed him and invited him to a meal.
3. Then she noticed that he came fairly often to Shunem and she wondered where he slept. She talked to her husband and they agreed to build a guest room on the roof of their home where Elisha could stop and rest when he was in town. They thought about things he might need—a bed, a lamp, a table and chair.
4. Elisha really appreciated what this lady and her husband did for him and he wanted to do something nice for her.
5. She didn't think she needed anything but Elisha learned that the lady didn't have a child. God revealed to him that in about a year's time, this kind lady would have a son which is what happened.

Key Points

Forming friendships include noticing someone needs something, having a common interest, wanting to be helpful and holding respect for the other. God wants to be our friend.

God wants to be our friend

From this Bible story we learn some basic ways to form human friendships. God wants to be our friend. How can we develop a friendship with God? That is what we are going to be learning throughout this term.

Suggestion for closing this lesson

Form a circle and take hold of hands. Think of this circle as a circle of friends. Imagine that Jesus stands in the center of the circle. He wants to be your friend also. As you close this class time, bow your heads and thank God for friends or pray this prayer suggestion: Father, thank you for friends. Thank you that you want to be my friend. Let me be a good friend to everyone in this class. Amen.

Teacher Evaluation

Am I quick to thank someone for befriending someone when I see it happen? Do I model for the children how to notice when someone is feeling left out and welcome them to join the others?