

Lesson 1: Let's Be Friends--Introduction to Peace in a Community

Topic: Peace with God

Sub-topics: Introduction

1A. God, the Creator and Father

1B. Jesus Christ: God the Son

Class: IV (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Objectives:

**Knowledge:** When asked what is required to be God's friend, students will know that they must trust God and obey Him.

**Attitude:** Students will want to be friends with God because He is loving and good.

Materials:

Chalkboard and chalk

Exercise Book and pencil

*Optional:* paper, pencil, crayons

References: John 15:12-17

Memory Verse: "You are My friends if you do what I command you." John 15:14

Teacher Activities

**Introduction**

Draw a T-chart on the board for "A Friend is/ is not".

**Bible:** Tell students to turn in their Bibles to John 15:12-17.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Who is speaking and who is He speaking to?
2. Read verse 14 again. What does this verse say about being friends with Jesus? What was it He was commanding them to do?
3. Why do you think He added verse 13?
4. If you love someone enough to die for them, what else would you be willing to do?
5. How was the relationship between Jesus and the disciples changing?

**Application:**

Refer to the T-chart and ask "What would it be like to have a friend like God?"  
Read the Key Concept from the teacher's notes and review the memory verse.

**Evaluation:** Do students know and believe that God wants to be their friend? Do they understand that they must obey Him? Do you feel that God is your friend?

Student Activities

**Introduction**

Students give examples of what a friend is or is not as you write them on the board.

**Bible:**

Students take turns reading verses.

**Possible answers to Questions**

1. Jesus is speaking to the disciples.
2. You are My friends if you do what I command you. Love one another as Jesus loved them.
3. Jesus was going to die for his disciples. He wanted them to know that love is not always easy.
4. *Answers will vary.*
5. He had been their teacher. In that culture students would serve their teacher. Now they would be His friends.

**Application:**

God is like the perfect friend. He is kind, loving, helpful, wise and so on.  
Write the memory verse in their exercise book.

**Evaluation:** Can students answer these two questions: What kind of a friend is God? What is required to be God's friend?

**Extension Activities:**

1. *Let students define Peace and Conflict.* See Lesson 1-Introduction in *Peace Lessons*. Tell students the definition of peace used in this book: “Peace is harmonious living and respect for human life through God’s guidance.”
2. *Writing.* Finish this sentence: “A good friend always \_\_\_\_\_” and then write a paragraph telling about a time when they were a friend to someone else or someone was a friend to them. They can draw a picture to illustrate it if they have time. *(See optional materials.)*
2. *Skits:* Have each student find a partner or make a group of three students. They are going to act out one way friends are good to each other.
3. *Memory Verse:* Repeat the verse to a partner until they can write it without looking.

**Notes for Teacher**

This year the Peace lessons will begin in Genesis and go through the Old Testament chronologically. We will learn that peacemaking starts by making peace with God. That is why it is so important that we learn to be friends with God by trusting and obeying Him. After we learn to be friends with God, He will help us be friends and live at peace with others.

Key Points: To be a Friend of God we must trust Him and obey Him. God is the perfect friend because he is kind and good. When we are Friends with God, He helps us to be friends and live at peace with others.

**T- Chart:**

Draw a T-chart on the board (see diagram below). At the top write “A Friend.” On the left side write “is” and on the right side write “is not.” Have students give examples of characteristics of friends and write those on the left side. Then have them tell some things they don’t want their friends to do and write that on the right side. See the diagram for examples.

A Friend	
Is	Is Not
Kind	Mean
Helpful	Lies
Loving	Steals

**About the Scripture**

The conversation in John 15:12-17 takes place at the Last Supper just before Jesus dies on the cross. He wants His disciples to know how much He loves them and that the reason He is dying on the cross is because of His love for them. Only a very special friend would die for us. God wants us to be His friend and be willing to do whatever He asks of us. *Quaker Connection:* The Friends Church gets its name from this verse. Quakers are “friends of God.”

**Application: What does it mean to obey God?**

God loves us very much. He would never hurt us. When He asks us to obey Him, He is saying that we should trust Him and do what He says because He knows what is best for us. God is a holy God but He invites us be His friends. Each person must choose if they will love God and

Friends of God - Unit 1: Peace with God

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obey Him or not. When God asks us to obey Him, He is saying, "I want you to trust me." If we trust God, we will do what He says because we love Him and trust Him. He will be the best friend you could ever have.