



August 2010



Following the True North Jesus Christ.

Help Kids Grow Their Friendships

Friends are vital to children's emotional and social development. Through friendships, kids learn to share, set boundaries; make decisions, and respect others. Having friends also makes children feel supported, which boosts their self-esteem.

With a new school year right around the corner, many children are thinking about reuniting with classmates and friends. But fears about bullies may also exist. No child is immune to mistreatment by peers. Here are some ways to help kids develop love, respect, and kindness toward one another while maintaining a healthy sense of self:

Love each other. Help children make the connection between how Jesus loves and cares for us and how he wants us to love and care for one another. Make the Golden Rule a top priority in your home ("Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you," Matthew 7:12).



Agree to disagree. Children need to hear and learn that it's okay to disagree with others because God made us all different. But it's never okay to hurt someone with our words or actions.

Everyone's important. Help children find the acceptance and recognition they seek by focusing on activities and behavior standards that are positive, fun, and rewarding. Guiding kids toward loving themselves is key to helping them love other people.

The School Year is Almost Here!

School is going to be starting for some of your kids fairly soon, or maybe daycare or even preschool. I hope that your summer was filled with amazing new family memories and special moments between you and your children. As your children and you start to think about the fall and their schedule remember to keep God the focus of it. Sometimes our schedules can become so full we forget to include family time or devotions with our kids, but when we try to build our schedules around those moments, everything else falls in to place. Also as your children get back into their activities and events, I would love to hear about them. If your child has a concert, event, game, etc. please let me know when it is, I would love to come and see your children participating in their passions. If there's anything I can do for you or your kids, please let me know. Praying for you, Pastor Danielle

PowerSource

Ask God:

1. To help your children make positive, lasting friendships.
2. To give your children the confidence to speak up about bullying.
3. To show your family members how to befriend one another.

Parenting Insights

These developmental tips from *Children's Ministry Magazine* show how friendships grow along with children:

Ages 2 to 4

Young children depend on others to help them develop social skills. Use praise to reinforce good behavior, such as sharing. Help children refine their negotiation skills to resolve conflicts. Give them ideas of what to say.

Ages 5 to 8

Kids this age are learning to choose their friends. Their self-image is strongly related to others' opinions of them. To help a bully, emphasize respect and model how to handle conflict without anger.

Ages 9 to 12

Parental authority diminishes, and kids want to be with their friends more. Discuss the qualities of a good friend and the down side of cliques and gangs.

OpenTheBook

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.”

John 15:13-14

Jesus, our ultimate Friend, sacrificed his life for us. We can follow his example by showing love and devotion to our friends and family members.

Teachable Moments

1. Stick With Love—Buy some stickers that have messages about friendship, and let children pass them out to friends. Read 2 John 5-6 and talk about what it means to love our friends.

2. Everyone’s Invited—When children feel left out or are excluded from a party, talk about how life isn’t always fair or equal. Read Luke 14:7-14 together and discuss ways to include people and not discriminate.



3. Time to Reflect—Let babies and toddlers see themselves and their playmates in mirrors. Say names aloud as children see the reflections so they can begin to attach names to other people.

4. Keep in Touch—During summer, help children send postcards to their friends. Even if postcards aren’t from a trip, correspondence will teach kids about nurturing their special relationships.



“So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are ON THE ROAD, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.” Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT

Learn more about children’s experiences with friendship by asking these discussion starters:

1. What are the most important qualities in a friend, and why?
2. How good of a friend do you think you are? How might you be able to be a better friend to someone?
3. How do you handle conflicts with your friends? What role does forgiveness play in friendships?
4. When you’re being bullied or see someone else being bullied, what’s the best way to handle the situation?

Family Experience: Friends First

Discover the meaning of true friendship with these activities from Group’s Hands-On Bible:

- **After You**—Challenge family members to put other people first for a whole day. Say: “See what it’s like to open doors for others, let everyone go in front of you in line, let others be served first, let others choose what to watch or play, and so on.”

At the end of the day, give each family member a piece of paper and a pencil. Say: “Draw a giant number one. Inside it, write what it was like to be last at things.” Read aloud Mark 9:35b. Ask: “What happens when we put others first? Why do you think Jesus wants us to act that way?” Say: “Living like this may have felt a little weird, but that’s what Jesus did for us!” Pray together, and have each person pray for someone else in the family.

- **Tied Together**—As a family, make friendship bracelets. (Easy instructions are available on the Internet.) During the craft time, talk about your friends and what you would or wouldn’t do for them. Read Ruth 1:16 and discuss the friendship between Naomi and Ruth, her daughter-in-law. Ask: “How do you think Naomi felt about Ruth’s loyalty? How can we be loyal to our friends and each other?”

Say: “Knots can remind us of bonds that can’t be broken, like the bond between Ruth and Naomi. Give away your bracelet to thank a friend for always being there for you.” Hang an extra bracelet on a doorknob at home as a reminder that family members are good friends, too.



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For your fridge...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sunday Morning Services		Restoration Day 8am-8pm (Come for 1 hour as a family)				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sunday Morning Services						BGMC Carnival & STL Car Wash 11am-2pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Sunday Morning Services						
BGMC Sunday						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Sunday Morning Services						Carnival and Car Wash Rain Date 11am-2pm
FLC Meeting						
29	30	31				
Sunday Morning Services						
FLC Meeting						

REMINDERS:

- Please bring any items that your child will need with you to their Sunday morning or Wednesday night class and please have them labeled (ex. Diaper bag, pacifier, blanket, extra clothes, cup, etc).
- Mark your calendars!!! This month: Saturday August 14th from 11am-2pm we will be having a BGMC Carnival. This will be in conjunction with Revolution's STL Car Wash where the teens of Mount Hope will be washing cars to raise money for Speed the Light. All games and booths will be \$0.25 and all food will be \$1. Please bring your children out for a fun event. If you are interested in volunteering we would love to see families volunteer together; for more information or to sign up please visit the Connections Center.
- If you are attending one of the Family Life Center Information Receptions on either Sunday August 22nd or Sunday August 29th please register if you need childcare. You can register on our website at: <http://mounthope.org/familylifecenter>.
- If there is anything I can do for you or your family or if you have any questions, please email me at DChristy@mounthope.org, or call 781-272-1014 ext.118.