

What is a true friend?

I. OPENER

Game:

"The Friendship Game"

This game is played like the old game show "The Newlywed Game." Pick four pairs of kids to be the contestants. The best mix is 2 guys, 2 girls, guy/girl friends, and dating guy/girl. This way you have four different kinds of friendships represented. If not, do your best with what you have. Designate one person from each pair as "A" and the other as "B." Have staff person take "A's" out of the room so they cannot hear. Ask the "A" questions and have a staff person write down each answer on a full sheet of paper and order in such a way as to allow person to pick up each answer in succession from a face down position. Bring back the "B's" and ask them the questions. When you finish (time-permitting), take the "B's" out of the room and do the same thing.

NOTE: Make sure you word the questions correctly, (i.e. "What did your friend say you would say to the following question?") Scoring is any way you wish. The first questions can be worth a smaller # of points and the later questions have a larger # of points. Whoever has the most total points at the end wins. You can think of a fun prize if you wish.

Set A Questions:

1. What will your friends say is their favorite thing to do for fun?
2. What will your friend say is the most embarrassing thing that happened to you both together?
3. Multiple Choice: what will your friend say best describes

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Study

Some friendships are fleeting and some are lasting. True friendships are glued together with bonds of loyalty and commitment. They remain intact, despite changing external circumstances.

Exercise/Activity

1. *Think of someone in your life who only wants to hang around you to get what you have.. Like he or she only wants to hang around you because you have some cool toys, because you have a cool house with lots of movies and other cool toys, etc.. Then write on a piece of paper all your friends and label them as good friends, casual friends, or bad friends.*
2. *Try to think of your friends if any of them would still be your friend if something terrible happened to you, like you got into a car accident and were paralyzed the rest of your life, or if you got cancer or something else.*

No matter how you look at it and how you label your friends it's important to realize that there are two different types of friends in your life and they are either a worldly or a Godly friend.

Worldly friends

These types are driven by their own emotions and desires. They'll be friends with you as long as you can give them what they want. This type also will easily abandon you when the going gets tough.

Jesus was abandoned by many that claimed to be his friend, because what he taught offended people.

John 6:60-68

⁶⁰On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

⁶¹Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit^[5] and they are life. ⁶⁴Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

⁶⁶From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

⁶⁷"You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Godly friends

The bible says in Proverbs 17:17 that true friends will love you at all times. Godly friends are people that will accept you no matter who you are or what circumstance you are in.

Some of you may not have the best physical appearance, or maybe you're a Special Ed kid. Maybe you're the type that gets picked on allot, and you feel that, you have no friends. But always remember that there are people that will accept you no matter who you are, and what you've done.

An example of a Godly based friendship in 1 Sam 18:1-4

¹ After David had finished talking with Saul, **Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.** ² From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house. **³And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.** ⁴ Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

David and Jonathan both loved each other like themselves. They are a perfect example of a Godly friendship. The friendship of David and Jonathan is what we all should model in our friendships.

We all should strive to love our friends like ourselves, we should accept our friends for who they are on the inside.