



Friendship - content ideas for primary school collective worship

Definition: *Christians believe that Jesus is our friend.* Feeling comfortable in each other's company, being able to share joys and sorrows are all features of friendship and these are things of immense value. True friendship enables each person to grow and ensures that the unique individuality of each person is recognised. All this echoes the value placed by God on the preciousness of each person. Hymns like 'What a friend we have in Jesus' point to a relationship that is at the heart of Christian believing. Knowing that God is our friend is to recover something of the acceptance and close companionship that people of all ages need and crave.



Key Bible Character - Ruth insisted on returning with Naomi to her home country of Israel. Our friends are people who stick with us in good times and in bad times, they are self-giving just like Jesus was.

Questions – How do we restore a broken friendship? Am I a good friend? What does it mean to be a good friend? Is our school a friendly school? How do we support each other?

Key Bible verse:

A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17

	Bible stories and verses linked to friendship	Bible chapter and verse	Key message
1	Jesus heals a paralysed man The Lion Storybook Bible -Down through the roof p.94	Luke 5 video	The lame man would not have been healed without the help of his friends, who did all they could for him.
2	Daniel's friends and the fiery furnace The Lion Storybook Bible -The Men who liked to say no p.74	Daniel 3:16-28 video	Daniel's friends stood up for what they believed was right, and faced a fiery consequence. The importance of sticking together in our friendships even when it isn't easy.

3	Ruth and Naomi The Lion Storybook Bible -Ruth finds a new home p. 48	video	Ruth's late husband was Naomi's son. While they were connected by a marriage relationship, they were also dear friends. Ruth insisted on returning with Naomi to her home country of Israel. Though Ruth had lost her husband to death, she did not want to lose her friend. They returned to Israel together grieving deeply. Ruth was there for Naomi in a very difficult situation.
4	Jonathan and David	1 Samuel 18: 1-8 and 19-20. video	One of the most famous stories about friendship in the Bible. Saul was the first king of Israel and Jonathan was his son. Jonathan would have been the next king in Israel, but his father Saul had disobeyed God to the point of having the kingdom taken away from him. God had already chosen David to be the next king of Israel. Even though Jonathan knew that David would be the next king, he befriended the young man. Jonathan was willing to trust God's decision in the choice of the next king. When it was clear that King Saul would not allow David to live, Jonathan put himself at risk to protect David. Saul's anger and jealousy made everything difficult but they remained firm friends.
5	Elijah and Elisha	watch	To help him carry out his work, God sent Elijah a friend and eventual successor, the younger Elisha. Elisha was absolutely devoted to his friend, to his mentor, because he knew the older man would make an excellent guide. It is important to choose friends who are wise and holy and passionate about what they do—after all, we tend to become like our peers.
6	Jesus calls the first disciples The Lion Storybook Bible -Jesus' special friends p.92	Luke 5 video	Jesus needed helpers. He laughed and joked with them and they became his friends. He could have called them his servants but he didn't. He called them friends. Jesus had a strong friendship with all the disciples. Each one had their own relationship with him. He even later called Simon Peter 'his rock.' We all need other people, not just to help us, but to provide us with company, friendship and guidance.
7	Mary and Martha	Luke 10	Martha and Mary were two young women living close to Jerusalem. They admired Jesus and were close friends – when Jesus came to

			Jerusalem he stayed with them and they showed him hospitality. On one of Jesus' visits, Martha got annoyed because she was doing all the housework while Mary, who should have been helping, sat listening to Jesus talk. What's the odds that Martha was the older sister in this story?! Martha complained to Jesus, but he seemed unconcerned, taking Mary's side. Don't worry so much about small things, he said – concentrate on what is important. Mary has chosen the better way.
8	Jacob and Esau	Genesis 33 watch	Jacob and Esau are twins who didn't get along but in the end they reconciled.

Other free resources on friendship to explore:

- <http://www.yoyotrust.org.uk/collective-worship>
- <https://www.brf.org.uk/product/exploring-friendship-using-bible-stories-4-david-and-jonathan-a-friend-indeed/>