

IDENTITY & SELF ACCEPTANCE | WEEK 14

LEADERS GOAL

Help students recognize what healthy friendship looks like

SUPPLIES

- iPad to watch Video
- Create welcoming space by engaging with students as they enter the space

SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 18:1-5, 20
1 Samuel 18:1

ACTIVITIES

Friendship Feud
Alphabet Improv

PRAY

BOTTOM LINE

God uses friendship to help us feel supported, encouraged, and reminded that we're not meant to do life alone.

AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

When you think of a good friend, who do you think of? What makes them a good friend? Were you able to be a friend and sit or talk with someone who was alone?

STORY CONNECTION

In The Lion King, we see an unexpected group of friends: Simba, Timon, and Pumbaa. It's not exactly a typical trio—a lion, a meerkat, and a warthog don't usually hang out together.

When Simba is at his lowest—lost, lonely, and running from his past—Timon and Pumbaa find him. They don't ask a lot of questions at first. They feed him, help him survive, and give him a place to belong.

Together, they:

- Eat grubs (that "taste like chicken")
- Learn to watch the wind around Pumbaa
- Decide to live with Hakuna Matata—no worries

For a while, Simba isn't alone anymore.

Leader Prompt:

- How do Timon and Pumbaa help Simba when he's lonely?
- What do they give him that he doesn't have on his own?

We also see another important friendship in the story: Simba and Nala. Nala reminds Simba of who he really is and helps him face what he's been running from. Sometimes friends don't just comfort us—they help us grow.



OUR STORIES

- How do you know when a friendship feels safe and supportive?
- What are some ways friends show they care without using words?
- How can friends help each other grow or make better choices?
- What kind of friend do you want to be to others?

TRUTH & TREASURE

The friendship that Simba, Timon, and Pumbaa have is a philia kind of love or friendship.

Remember when we talked about agape love? Agape love is the highest form of love. It is unconditional (loving without any limits or special rules, no matter what someone does or how they act), selfless, and sacrificial. Jesus shows us agape love.

Another word for love is philia (or phileo) and it means friendship, brotherly love, companionship. That's what Simba, Timon, and Pumbaa have in our story.

David and Jonathan are Best Friends – 1 Samuel 18:1-5, 20

David was a young man who trusted God. He had just done something incredible — defeated the giant Goliath when everyone else was too afraid to fight. After that victory, King Saul invited David to stay in the palace.

That's where David met Jonathan, Saul's son. Even though Jonathan was the prince and David was a shepherd, they became best friends. The Bible says,

“Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.” — 1 Samuel 18:1

Jonathan could have been jealous — after all, everyone was cheering for David. But instead, he chose kindness and loyalty. He gave David special gifts — his robe, belt, sword, and bow — as a way to say, “You are my friend, and I believe in you.”

Later, when King Saul became jealous and wanted to hurt David, Jonathan warned him and helped him escape safely. Their friendship was built on trust, love, and faith in God. Let's see what happened:

Video link: <https://streamable.com/zidoeu>

- David and Jonathan show us what real friendship looks like.

A real friend:

- Encourages you when you're afraid.
- Celebrates you instead of being jealous.
- Stands by you even when it's hard.
- Reminds you of God's truth when you forget.

Jonathan showed what God's love looks like — faithful, kind, and strong.



DISCOVERY

GAME | Friendship Feud

Goal: Get students thinking, talking, and laughing while exploring real friendship qualities and experiences.

How to Play:

- Divide into two teams — (Team Simba vs. Team Pumbaa).
- Have a new player from each team come to the front to answer per question.
- Ask a question aloud. Teams take turns giving their best or most creative answers.
- After each round, pause to reflect or share a quick takeaway about friendship or faith.
- Optionally, award points for thoughtful or funny answers — or skip scoring altogether and focus on the discussion.

Round 1: Friendship Fun

1. What's something fun you love doing with your friends?
2. What's one thing that always makes you and your friends laugh?
3. What's something only your closest friends know about you?
4. What's the weirdest inside joke you've ever had with a friend?
5. What's your favorite memory with a friend?

Round 2: Real Friendship Moments

1. What makes someone a really good friend?
2. When is it hardest to be a good friend?
3. How do you show a friend you care about them?
4. What can you do when you and a friend have an argument?
5. How do you feel when someone includes you — or when you include someone else?

Round 3: Tough but True

1. Have you ever had to forgive a friend? What helped you do it?
2. What do you do if a friend starts hanging out with someone else more than you?
3. How do you know if someone is a real friend or not?
4. What's something you wish all your friends understood about you?
5. What can you do if you see a friend making a bad choice?

Round 4: Friendship Heroes (Movie + Bible Tie-In)

1. How were Timon and Pumbaa good friends to Simba?
2. What can we learn about friendship from David and Jonathan?
3. What are some ways to be a “Jonathan” kind of friend in your own life?
4. Who in The Lion King reminds you of the kind of friend you want to be?
5. When has a friend helped you remember who you really are — like Mufasa reminded Simba?

Round 5: Heart Questions

- What’s one thing you love most about your friends?
- What’s one thing you want to work on to be a better friend?
- What does God say about friendship?
- What does it mean to be a loyal or trustworthy friend?
- How can you show God’s love through your friendships this week?

Optional Lightning Round (quick-fire version for extra fun)

- What’s your dream friend hangout spot?
- What animal best represents your friend group?
- Who’s most likely to make everyone laugh?
- Who’s most likely to plan something fun?
- Who’s most likely to give great advice?

GAME | Alphabet Improv

Working together as a Small Group, students begin with a scene location where friends like to hang out. Beginning with the letter A, one student makes up a sentence about the scene that begins with A. For example, “After class today, let’s go to the park to hang out.”

The next student continues with B and adds to the story. “Basketball is your favorite sport. Let’s play a game of basketball.” Students can act out or add motions to the story as they piece it together, but the goal is to remember the alphabet while creating a story around the scene location.

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for being our friend. There is no one else more loyal, patient, and loving than you. Thank you for giving us good friends at K2K, school, and church. Help us to be great friends to others. Amen.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Being a good friend and having good friends takes work. What friends will you encourage and support this week?

