

WHAT A GOOD FRIEND DOES

GRADES 1-3 - Lesson I (Year III, Day 4)

Goal: Students will learn the difference between treating others with respect and using others as a means to an end. Activities will reinforce the qualities of a good friend, and the responsibilities we have for each other as members of the human family.

Lesson: Today's lesson is about friendship. Jesus was a friend to everyone: the sick, the healthy, men, women, the young, the old, the poor, and the rich. We should try to be like Jesus by being kind to all. We can all be good friends to each other. Remember that each and every person is created in the image of God.

Activity: Ask students to pair up with someone they might not know well or play with often. Tell them that part of being a good friend is recognizing the good qualities in other people. Have the pairs of students hold an informal conversation about something they have done that they are proud of. Encourage students to talk about acts of service, awards, or gifts they have made/given to someone. Then, ask one student in the pair to share the good of their peer, and then swap roles. If you would like, provide an example: "So-and-so is thoughtful and generous. So-and-so is also a great pitcher."

Explain that it is important for us to lift each other up in prayer and kindness towards God. Let's thank God for the great qualities that He has given our classmates!

Activity-Related Discussion:

It can feel great to receive a compliment, but let's always remember to thank God for his blessings and gifts to us.

Ask students to imagine telling a friend, "You are such a great skier! You could be in the Olympics."

How would they feel if the friend responded to this compliment by saying, "I know." and then skiing away without another word? It probably wouldn't feel very nice.

Here's what we can do to avoid that situation:

When someone says, "Hey you have a great smile!", try and remember that it was God that lovingly designed that smile. When someone says, "Wow, you have a great sense of humor!", think about how God decided to put

someone happy and funny like you on Earth. Thank you, God! Thank you for my family and friends, and thank you for the talents and qualities that you have given me, even the ones that I haven't discovered yet.

Discussion:

- Why do we need friends?
- What does it mean to be a good friend?
- What are some of the qualities you think a friend should have?
- What are some of the qualities you have that help you to be a good friend to others?
- As good friends, what should we avoid doing?

Watch: [Sesame Street Respect](#), and [Called To Be Saints](#).

Discussion: Sesame Street Respect Questions:

What did the Wolf and the Pigs realize that made them stop fighting?

By the end of the video, what qualities do they have that make them care for each other so much?

What can *we* do to be good friends?

Called To Be Saints Questions:

Why was saying sorry the right thing for Tompkin the Cowboy to do?

What did the video say that we can do to be great saints?

Should we be friends only with the people that we know and like? Or does Jesus ask us to go out of our way to be friends with people who don't have friends and might get left out? If so, what are some ways that we can do this?

Activity: Practice Courtesy! Ask students to listen to a classmate describe his/her room. Look the person in the eye when they speak. Ask questions, and when time is up, ask them to try to describe their classmate's room.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, You created us in Your image of love and friendship. Help us to be good friends to others. Help us to share what we have with those who are in need. Help us to be cheerful when we help others because everything we do is for You. Help us to be truthful with our friends and show them that they can trust us. You showed us that good friends will do anything for each other. Friendship is important in being a good Christian.

We ask you to send Your love into our hearts. Let us know You always love us and please help us to share Your love with all of our friends. Amen.

Teachers' Note: *This day's activities correspond with the study of Human Trafficking for the older grades. Part of this discussion focused on keeping kids safe, particularly on the internet. On [this website](#), you will find resources for internet safety for kids of all ages. Please review these and share them with your class parents as appropriate. Attached is the download page for an example [powerpoint](#) (appropriate for grades K-2).*

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace and the Nashville Dominicans "Virtues in Practice" Program