

WHAT A GOOD FRIEND DOES

GRADES 1-3 - Lesson II (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.

Introduce the mystery of the Trinity. Explain that the Trinity is one God and three Persons, and they live in perfect friendship with each other. We should try to imitate this friendship.

Discussion:

- How do good friends treat other people?
- What are some of the qualities you like in friends?
- What are some of the qualities you have that help you to be a good friend to others?

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. Ask them to share some good qualities of the person sitting next to them, then the person across from them.

Activity: Choose a worksheet for students to complete: the [worksheet](#) on respect.

Watch: [Helen reads "Firedog Freddie"](#)

Discussion:

Helen was a good friend to her brother when she read him a book to help him sleep. After all, she could have just stayed in her room.

- In what ways can we be good friends to our family and friends, even when it is hard or when we don't feel like it?
- God knows that it can be hard to be nice to everyone, especially people who have been mean to us. But He wants us to try and do it, and we can ask Him for His help. Next time students are in a situation in

which they feel angry or worried, challenge them to step aside for a moment. Ask them to close their eyes and ask God to help them do what He wants them to do. Why? Because God wants the best for us, and He will lead us there if we let Him.

- What are ways that we can start a friendship with people who don't have friends or people who are left out?
- Talk to students about the importance of listening and being a good friend. Talking is good, but so is listening! Remind students that people who pay attention and listen without interrupting the other person are respectful and are practicing helpful friendship skills.

Watch: [Jesus is the Best Best Friend](#),

Activity: Have students draw pictures of themselves in prayer. Divide students into pairs, encouraging them to pair with someone they may not know very well. They can choose to brainstorm or draw together. Give each student a piece of paper and materials. Then, have them draw who/what they will pray for around the image. For example, a student may draw a football, or a family member.

Prayer:

Lord, you made us for friendship. Help us to follow your example and be kind to each other. Help us to remember that we always have a friend, the Creator of friendship, in You. Help me to be a good friend to my classmates, neighbors, and siblings. Watch over me always and help me to be like You. Even if sometimes I forget that You are always with me, at this moment I pray that You lead me where you want me to be always. You know what is best for me and for those around me, please help me to choose to do and say the right things. When I see someone who does not have anyone to be with at recess, lunch, or after school, let me show them your love by being a good friend to them. When a friend hurts my feelings, help me to forgive them. I pray for my friends now and the new friends I will make. Please lead me to people who will be good friends to me, too. 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. 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