

WHAT A GOOD NEIGHBOR DOES

GRADES PK-K - Lesson II (Year III, Day 4)

Goal: To introduce children to friendship, particularly focusing on how to be a good friend by treating others with respect and love.

Materials:

drawing paper

crayons and markers

optional: scissors, yarn, buttons, pipe cleaners, fabric, glitter, etc.

Lesson: Have the children gather in a circle on the floor. Play and sing [“The More We Get Together”](#).

It makes God very happy when we are good friends to each other.

Introduce students to the definition of ‘friendship’. Friendship is when two people want the best for each other. Friendship is not just liking to play together or being around each other. Friends help one another. A good friend helps friends be good too.

Activity: Practice being a good friend! Act or discuss what students could say in the following scenarios:

- A student says, “This math work is too hard! I give up.”
- A student tells a friend, “There’s a new student in class today. Do you want to come with me and ask her to eat lunch with us?”
- A sibling says, “Dad asked me to load the dishwasher, but I’d rather watch some cartoons first.”

Watch: [Arthur Poolside Fun](#) and [Jesus is the Best Best Friend](#) or [Jesus Is My Friend](#)

Discussion:

- Discuss how Arthur and his friends were able to have fun at the pool with Molly, even after they had a disagreement.

- Ask students what qualities of a good friend Arthur shows in the scene. What do each of the students like best about what Arthur did?
- Discuss how each student can practice friendship.
- Remind students that even when they feel lonely, they always have a best friend in God that they can speak to.
- Give examples of what we can tell God about in our prayer. For example, students can tell God about their school, their friends, the things they worry about, the sports they like, etc.

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 what/who they will pray for around the image. For example, a student may draw a football, or a family member.

Activity: Explore the site about [saint friendships](#). Select two or three pairs of friends, and present them to the class. Then, ask students to select a pair of saint-friends and draw them.

Prayer:

Lord, you made us for friendship. Help us to know that we are never alone. You are with us always. Help me to be a good friend to the friends I have now and the new friends I will make. When I see someone who does not have any friends, let me be the person who is a good friend to them. When a friend hurts my feelings, let me forgive them. Let me always say nice things about my friends. Please show me how to share Your love with my 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