

Respect Life Week 2018-19  
Grades 1-3 Lesson Plan  
Loneliness

Goal:

Loneliness is an epidemic in our culture that is having disastrous effects on young and old alike. In this lesson, students will learn that God wants us to be friends with everyone, just as he welcomes everyone into heaven.

Materials:

- Print: Wanted – A True Friend (link on website) for each student
- Slips of paper with story starter topics ie, dinosaurs, space, unicorns, circus, etc.
- Timer

Discuss:

Watch “The Parable of the Great Banquet”

This video recounts the story from Luke 14: 12-24, in which a man plans a great party for all of his friends. But, when he tells his friends everything is ready, they make excuses and don't attend. Instead, the man invites the poor and those in the town who have no friends. They have a great party! In this story, Jesus tells us that this is like Heaven. God invites all of us to join him in Heaven, but we have to want to go. And, Heaven will look a lot like the banquet the man in the story threw – everyone will be there, even if they are poor or sick or don't have any friends.

Discussion Questions:

- What do we learn from this story about the importance of reaching out to people who don't have friends? Is that what Jesus did?
- If we want to be like him, how important is it to care for people who are lonely?
- This parable is meant to represent Heaven. What does this tell us about who is in Heaven? Are all of the people in Heaven friends? Why or why not?

Watch “The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Friends”

In this video Sister Bear meets a new neighbor, and at first the two are good friends. After a while, Sister Bear learns lessons about sharing, compromise, and being a good friend.

### Discussion Questions:

- What did Sister Bear and the new neighbor like about each other?
- What kinds of things did they do together?
- Why did they start to fight?
- In the show, Sister Bear said, “It’s much better to play by yourself. When you play by yourself, you can do whatever you want!” What do you think of that statement? Is it true?
- Is it better to always do what you want or to sometimes compromise so you can have a friend to play with?

### Activity:

#### “Wanted: A True Friend”

Based on the two videos and the discussion, ask students to write a short description or draw a picture of what makes a good friend.

“Create a Story” Game—the goal of this game is to learn to share and compromise with a friend.

Students separate into pairs. Each pair is given an easy topic to start a story. The pair decides who will go first. Set the timer for 15 seconds. The first student starts telling a story about the topic until the timer sounds. Then the second student picks up where the first left off, telling the story for another 15 seconds. Repeat for up to 5 minutes, depending on the attention of the students.

What did the students learn?

Were they happy compromising on their stories? Or did they argue? Was it fun to hear the different story their friend was creating? Or were they upset that they didn’t get to say their own story?

What does this teach about compromising in friendship? Is it more important to have our own way, or to be a good friend?

### Prayer:

Jesus, you made me and you made my friends.  
You love all of us the same every single day.  
You want the whole world to be friends.  
Be my friend and help me to be a good friend  
to others, especially people who don’t have any other friends. Amen.