



Week 1 – Friend Filter

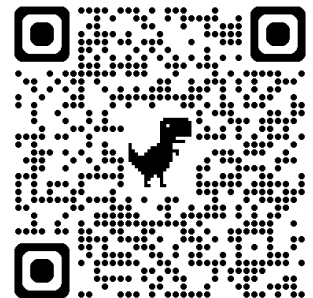
Bible Story: Matthew 7:24–27 (The wise and foolish builder) Proverbs 12:26

Main Idea: Just like picking the best game to play, we need to pick the best friends who help us grow and feel good.

Digital Application: When you're online, choose friends who make you feel safe and happy, just like you would in school or your neighborhood.

Gospel Connection: Even when we make mistakes in choosing friends, God is ready to forgive us because Jesus gave His life for us and offers us salvation when we trust in Him.

Video Bible Stories: Use this link to access recommended Bible story videos and bonus content for this curriculum series. https://linktr.ee/friend_request_lessons



Introduction & Group Game

“Friend or Foe Sorting”

TEACHER: Hello, everyone! I’m so excited to have you all here today as we start our new series called “Friend Request.” Making and keeping friends is so important. It’s part of how God designed us. So over the next few weeks, we’ll learn how to make friends, be good friends, and even be safe with friends online.

The Bible talks about choosing friends wisely. Our most important friendship is with Jesus, and he wants to help us carefully choose our other friends. Living God’s way means we pick friends who will be good for our lives and help us positively impact the world for Jesus. We can be nice to everyone, but we must be careful about who gets our time and attention. You can think about it like a team. In sports and video games, getting on the right team is important. That’s why it’s important to pick friends who are good for us and make us feel happy and safe. We’ll see what the Bible says about choosing friends wisely and how we can apply that in our online and offline lives. To get us started, we will play a fun game that will help us think about the qualities we want in a friend.

Game: Friend or Foe Sorting Game

Supplies:

- A basket or box
- Labeled cards with various character traits written on them (e.g., kind, honest, mean, lies, shares, bullies)
- Two larger boxes or areas marked “Friend” and “Foe”

Instructions:

1. Scatter the trait cards around the room or in a basket at the front.
2. Have the children form a line.
3. One at a time, each child will pick a card and read it aloud.
4. The group will decide if the trait belongs in the "Friend" or "Foe" box.
5. After placing the card, the child goes to the end of the line.
6. Continue until all cards are sorted.

TEACHER: Great job, everyone! I hope you had fun playing the "Friend or Foe Sorting" game. This activity helped us think about the kinds of qualities that make someone a good friend. Remember, choosing friends who are kind, honest, and supportive is important because they can help us grow and make good choices. Just like Jesus is always there for us, good friends will encourage us and make us feel happy and safe. As we go through this series, let's keep thinking about how we can be good friends to others and choose friends who reflect Jesus' love and values. Thanks for participating, and I'm excited to continue learning with you!

Object Lesson

“Filtered Light”

Supplies:

- A flashlight
- Colored transparent plastic sheets (red, blue, green)
- Dark cloth or a black plastic bag
- A white wall or a large white sheet of paper

TEACHER: Let’s do a little experiment to see how important it is to choose our friends wisely. Think of this flashlight as all the people we might meet in our lives. (Turn on the flashlight and point it at the white wall or sheet of paper.)

Let’s hear one of the things the Bible says about friendships.

READ: Proverbs 12:26

Being “righteous” means living God’s way and following his mission for our lives. This verse says we must pick friends who will be good for our lives and help us and keep living God’s way.

Now, I have some colored sheets here. Each color represents different qualities or traits that people might have. (Hold up the red sheet in front of the flashlight and let the red light shine on the wall.) This red light can represent qualities like love and courage. See how it changes the light to red? (Repeat with the blue and green sheets, explaining each represents calmness and reliability, and growth and kindness, respectively.)

But not all traits are good. (Hold up the dark cloth.) This dark cloth is like having traits that aren't so good, like being dishonest or mean. Watch what happens when I cover the flashlight with this cloth. (Cover the flashlight, showing how the light dims or goes out.)

Just like we saw with these filters, the friends we choose affect what kind of 'light' they bring into our lives. Good traits make our lives brighter and better. But negative traits? They can make things darker.

This demonstration helps us understand why the Bible tells us in Proverbs 12:26 to choose our friends carefully—they really do influence our lives like the light through these filters. Of course, nobody is perfect, even when we make mistakes in choosing friends or do wrong, God offers us His forgiveness because of Jesus. Jesus died for us, showing the greatest love of all. His light never goes out and always shines bright in our lives, guiding us to forgive and love others, too.

Bible Story

“The Wise and Foolish Builders”

TEACHER: Let’s learn about making wise choices through a very interesting story Jesus told. It’s about two people who built houses, but they chose very different ways to build them. This story will help us understand why choosing good friends, just like choosing a good foundation for a building, is very important in our lives.

Before we start, let’s think about building something. Imagine you are building a treehouse. Would you start building it on weak branches or a sturdy part of the tree? Keep that in mind as we hear what Jesus said about building houses.

READ: Matthew 7:24-27

What do you think it means to build your house on the rock? How can this be like choosing good friends?

What happened to the house on the sand? Can you think of a time when choosing something that seemed easy wasn’t actually the best choice?

In our lives, choosing friends is like choosing where to build a house. If we choose friends who help us make good decisions, it’s like building our house on a rock. But if we choose friends who make poor choices, it might be like building on sand. What would happen if we choose friends who are like the sand?

READ: Proverbs 12:26

We are reading this one again because it’s so important. This verse teaches us to be wise when choosing our friends because the right friends help us make good decisions and lead us closer to God, much like building a house on a solid

foundation. By choosing friends who are kind, honest, and who love God, we can build a life that is strong and stable.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: Now, let's remember something very important. Being loved and rescued by Jesus doesn't depend on our own good choices or behavior but on our faith in Him. Even though we talk about making wise choices, like choosing good friends, our most important choice is trusting Jesus. He is the solid rock we can always depend on.

Choosing good friends is important because they influence how we think, act, and even how we treat others. Let's ask God to help us make wise choices in our friends and to help us trust in Jesus more every day.

Friend Request Show - Episode #1

Setup Suggestions:

- Provide each child with paddles or cards to vote on scenarios, adding a fun, game-like element.
- Consider giving out small prizes or stickers for participation or for thoughtful contributions to the discussion.

LEADER: Good morning, everyone! It's time to play 'Friend Request.' This is a game where we look at different situations online and decide what the best choice is. Remember our Bible story about building on solid rock? We'll use what we learned there to help us make good choices today. Let's get started!

Scenario 1: Stranger's Friend Request

Here's our first scenario: Imagine you're playing a game online, and you get a friend request from someone you've never met before. You check their profile, and you don't have any friends in common. What should you do? Should you accept the friend request or not? Let's talk about it for a minute, and then I'll ask you to vote using your 'Yes' or 'No' cards.

(After discussion)

Let's see your votes! Hold up your cards now.

(Review the responses)

Most of you said 'No,' and that's the wise choice! It's always wise to stay away from strangers online and in real life. If you're ever unsure, check with your parents.

Scenario 2: Following an Account

Next scenario: You find an Instagram account that posts very funny videos. But sometimes, the videos make fun of other people or are a little mean. Should you follow this account? Think about whether this is building on rock or sand. Let's hear what everyone thinks before we vote.

(After discussion) Time to vote! Show me your cards, 'Yes' or 'No.'

(Review the responses) Choosing 'No' is a great decision! Following a mean account will flood you with that kind of thing in the future. We want to fill our feeds with positivity and kindness, which is like building on solid rock!

Scenario 3: Liking a Popular but Negative Video

Here's our last scenario for today: You see a video that has lots of likes, but it shows someone being dared to do something dangerous. It looks exciting, but you know it's not a good idea. Would you like the video? Let's talk it over.

(After discussion) Let's see your cards—vote 'Yes' or 'No.'

(Review the responses) Excellent, saying 'No' to liking the video is the wise choice. Even though it's popular, it's not safe or kind, and we always want to make choices that are safe and show we care about others.

Great job today, everyone! You've made some wise choices during 'The Friend Request Show.' Remember, every time you're online, think about building on solid rock with the choices you make. We want to be sure our actions online are safe and smart. Thank you for playing, and keep making good choices!

Discussion Questions & Prayer

LEADER: Great job listening to our Bible lesson today. I'm so proud of how well you all paid attention and thought about the important choices we make every day, especially about our friends and how we act online. Now, let's talk a bit more about what we learned and how we can use it in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of a time when you made a really good choice about a friend?
What made it a good choice?
2. Why do you think it's important to choose friends who are kind and honest?
3. How can we be like the wise builder when we use the internet or play games online?

Prayer Requests: Now, does anyone have any prayer requests? Maybe something you need help with, or something you're thankful for that you'd like to share with the group?

Dear God, thank you for teaching us today about making wise choices, just like the wise builder in Jesus' story. Please help us to choose good friends and to be good friends to others. Watch over us this week, keep us safe, and help us to remember everything we learned today. Amen.

Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-27)



Word Search Puzzle

BUILD - CARE - CHOICE - FRIEND - GOOD - GUARD

HELP - PICK - SAFE - SHARE - TRUST - TRUTH - WISE

B	B	U	R	B	D	V	A	N	J	F
E	N	H	A	U	M	L	V	R	H	R
W	Y	E	B	V	G	S	V	D	I	I
U	T	L	U	F	C	H	O	I	C	E
Q	K	P	I	C	K	A	H	J	S	N
Q	G	E	L	P	G	R	A	Z	R	D
Y	T	O	D	S	I	E	R	E	U	K
F	R	Z	O	J	A	S	O	T	W	A
G	U	A	R	D	F	V	A	Z	I	O
S	T	R	U	S	T	I	C	F	S	U
X	H	Y	W	D	I	C	A	R	E	E

Word Search Answers

B	B	U	R	B	D	V	A	N	J	F
E	N	H	A	U	M	L	V	R	H	R
W	Y	E	B	V	G	S	V	D	I	I
U	T	L	U	F	C	H	O	I	C	E
Q	K	P	I	C	K	A	H	J	S	N
Q	G	E	L	P	G	R	A	Z	R	D
Y	T	O	D	S	I	E	R	E	U	K
F	R	Z	O	J	A	S	O	T	W	A
G	U	A	R	D	F	V	A	Z	I	O
S	T	R	U	S	T	I	C	F	S	U
X	H	Y	W	D	I	C	A	R	E	E

Craft Activity

“Friendship Bracelets”

Supplies Needed:

- Yarn or embroidery thread in various colors
- Scissors
- Tape or a clipboard (to hold the bracelet in place while working)



Step-by-Step Directions:


1. Choose Colors: Let each child choose 3-4 colors of yarn or thread. These colors can represent different qualities of a good friend, such as kindness (pink), honesty (blue), loyalty (green), and fun (yellow).
2. Cut the Yarn: Cut about 24 inches of each color of yarn. It's better to have the strings longer than needed than too short.
3. Start the Bracelet: Gather all the strands together, tie a knot about an inch from the top to form a loop. This loop is where the bracelet will eventually be fastened. Tape the knot to a table or clip it to a clipboard to keep it steady.
4. Braid the Bracelet: Separate the strands into three groups (if using three colors, each group should be a different color). Braid the strands together until you have about 6 inches of braided bracelet, depending on the wrist size of the child. While braiding, encourage the children to think about the qualities

each color represents and how they can incorporate these qualities into their friendships.

5. Finish the Bracelet: Tie another knot at the end of your braid to secure it. Trim any excess thread beyond the knot.
6. Tie the Bracelet: The bracelet can be tied around the wrist by slipping the initial loop over the final knot, adjusting for size.

There are similar craft ideas on YouTube - here is an example for help.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jASC2Y2udWI>

 DIY Twisted Friendship Bracelets - Great for kids!



Week 1 – Note for Parents

Today in our lesson, your child embarked on the first part of our "Friend Request" curriculum, focusing on making wise choices when selecting friends. We discussed the biblical story of the wise and foolish builders, learning how the foundation on which we build—much like the friendships we choose—impacts our lives. This lesson teaches the importance of selecting friends who are a positive influence, paralleling how wise choices provide a strong foundation for spiritual growth.

Online safety is a crucial topic worth discussing, as it equips children with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the digital world responsibly and securely.

We're grateful that you've chosen to invest in your child's spiritual development by participating in our program. This series will continue to explore building true friendships in a digital world, emphasizing how these relationships align with living a Christ-centered life.
