

# Friends

**OBJECTIVE:** *To encourage each other to be good friends and to have Jesus as our best friend.*



## WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about fellowship that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

- "Father Abraham"
- "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
- "Jesus Loves the Little Children"
- "Praise the Lord Together"
- "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"
- "We Are One in the Spirit"
- "You Have Called Us"

## STORY

Jesus' Friends See Him Transfigured, Matthew 17:1-8

- Jesus, Peter, James, and John go up onto a mountain.
- Jesus begins to shine brightly, and Moses and Elijah appear and talk with him.
- God says that Jesus is his Son. He loves Jesus, and the disciples should listen to Jesus.

Make six puppet figures by drawing faces on the bowls of six plastic spoons with a permanent marker. Let the children work the puppets as you read the Scripture. At the point in the story when Jesus is transfigured, shine a flashlight onto the puppet that represents Jesus.

## MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17).

To help the children remember this verse, ask them to say it several times together, shaking hands with a different person each time.

## ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story and to provide a springboard for discussion.

**PYRAMID PARTNERS.** Each person chooses a partner. Give each pair a large stack of paper cups. When you say, "Go," everyone works with their partners to see how high they can build a pyramid of cups in 2 minutes. Stop at the end of 2 minutes. Talk about Jesus' friends and our friends.

**RELAY.** Have a relay race or game. Take a break and talk about friends. Ask: "Why do we need friends? Who were the friends Jesus took with him to the mountain?"



**SIT AND GET UP.** Everyone sits on the floor, knees bent. Tell them to try to get up without using their hands. Then tell them to choose partners. They sit on the floor the same way, except partners sit back to back and link elbows. Then ask them to try to stand up together. Ask: "Can you stand up by yourself? Can you stand up if you have a partner? Do you need a third friend to help? How did Jesus' friends help him? How did he help them?"

**TIN CAN PHONE.** Punch a hole in the bottom of two cans. Thread one end of a long string through one can and the other end through the other can so that the open ends of the cans are facing away from each other. Tie each end of the string to a paper clip to secure it inside the can. Now stretch the string out. One person talks into one end while someone listens at the other end. Ask: "What did God say about listening?" (See v. 5 of the story.)

## QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus chose Peter, James, and John to go with him?
2. We have a clue about how Peter felt when he saw what happened. How do you think James and John felt? How would you have felt? What would you have done?
3. Why do we need close friends? Can Jesus be your best friend?

## KIDS' COUNCIL

### BRING IT HOME

- How do you know when someone is your friend? How does Jesus know if you are his friend?
- Could you become a closer friend to Jesus? How? What do you think would happen if you did?
- Can Jesus be a best friend? How will you treat him if he's your friend?
- Why is it important to listen to Jesus? How can we do that?

### SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- Give the children an opportunity to ask Jesus to be their best friend if they want to.
- Thank God for sending Jesus to be a special friend for us.

## ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- What is the significance of the transfiguration?
- Peter, James, and John seem to have been closer to Jesus than any of the other disciples. Why do you suppose this was true? Do you have a small group of friends that are closer to you than others? Why or why not?
- Could you become a closer friend to Jesus? If so, how? What do you think would happen if you became a closer friend? Do you want to be closer to Jesus?
- What do friends typically do together? What do you do with Jesus?

## SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

**Friendship Cracker-mallows.** Give each person a square graham cracker. Let him place a marshmallow on top and place the cracker on a cookie sheet. Broil the marshmallows on the crackers until they puff and start melting. Let each person have their crackèr-mallows back. Tell each one to ask a friend to put a graham cracker square on top of their cracker-mallow. Talk about how friends help us.