

Holding Out for the Arrows

SPLASH Small Groups: 2nd-3rd Grade

September 6, 2017

Bible Story: Holding Out for the Arrows (Love one another) • *John 13:34; 1 Samuel 20*
(Supporting: *1 Samuel 18–19*)

Bottom Line: Friends love one another.

Memory Verse: “A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.”
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

Life App: Friendship—using your words and actions to show others you care.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

GET READY

The following supplies will be prepared ahead of time for Elementary Kids Small Groups this week and can be picked up from the Upper Resource Room on Wednesday evening:

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (10 minutes)

Wows & Pows

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build relationships

- No supplies needed

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (10 minutes)

Bible Story

- Bible
- “Bottom Line” poster
- Kid volunteers (do not need to be preselected)
- Table
- Prop box containing:
 - Jacket
 - Nice “gifts” for David that are school related (backpack, shoes, iPad®, etc.)
 - Paper airplane
 - Place cards
 - Giant rubber band

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Friendship Feels Like . . .

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

- Play-Doh®; enough for each kid to have a fist sized amount
- Paper plates
- Wet wipes

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction **(10 minutes)**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, spend some time praying in preparation for their arrival. Ask God to get kids excited to talk about their friends this week and learn how to be a better, more Christ-like friend. Pray that kids would walk away from today ready to love their friends in more tangible ways.

Wows and Pows

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build relationships

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- If you haven't already, welcome the kids to your small group.
 - Ask each kid to share a Wow and a Pow with the group. Remember, a "Wow" is something good that happened during the week and a "Pow" is something not so good that happened to them. Encourage each kid to share at least one Wow.
 - Connect with the kids by sharing a Wow and Pow from your week.
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Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways **(10 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer time.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible, kid volunteers, table, prop box containing: Jacket, Nice "gifts" for David that are school related, paper airplane, place cards, giant rubber band, "Bottom Line" poster

What You Do:

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: "Now, you might already know this, but God has a lot to say about friendship in His Word! When we discover all that God says about being a good friend, we can actually become better friends to the people in our lives. Let's start with a verse we just read from the Book of John. Jesus said this to His disciples, and you can read it for yourself in John 13:34. (*Open your Bible and read John 13:34.*) "*I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you*" (NIRV). Jesus makes it pretty simple here.

Point to the Bottom Line poster hanging on the wall.

[Bottom Line] "Friends love one another."

DAVID AND JONATHAN'S FRIENDSHIP

LEADER: "While the Bible talks a lot about friendship, we can also find great examples of friendship in the Bible! When you think about friendships you can find in the Bible, who do you think of? (*Pause to see if they have any responses.*) I always think of David and Jonathan. Those two were amazing friends. Today we're going to take a closer look at their friendship. Can someone help me out today and play the role of David?"

Bring a kid up in front of the group to play David.

"David had been anointed as the next king of Israel, but he was still waiting for God to reveal His plan to actually make David king. Meanwhile, David had come to live with and serve King Saul, and David and Jonathan had become inseparable. Jonathan loved David as he loved himself.

"Jonathan promised he would always stand by David, and as a sign of their friendship, he removed his princely robe and offered it to David. (*To volunteer*) Now, I don't have a prince's robe to give you, but I do have this awesome jacket.

Put the jacket around the volunteer's shoulders.

“Jonathan also gave David his military clothes, his sword, his bow, and his belt. *(To volunteer)* I don’t have a sword or a bow, but let’s see what cool stuff I’ve got in here that you can have instead.

Pull out the nice backpack, shoes, iPad, etc. and load David down with things.

“David must have felt so important and loved when Jonathan gave him all of his favorite things!

“But as much as Jonathan loved David, Jonathan’s father, King Saul, hated David that much more. It hadn’t been that long since David had defeated the Philistine giant, Goliath, with nothing more than a sling and one small stone. David was becoming super popular with the Israelites, and King Saul burned with jealousy. He thought David was trying to turn the people against him and take his kingdom!

“In fact, one day, while David was playing his harp for the king, Saul threw his spear across the room at David, trying to kill him.

Fish around in the prop box as you talk.

(To Volunteer) “I don’t want to throw a spear at you, but this will work for today.

Pull out the paper airplane and throw it at the volunteer.

“Thankfully, David escaped, and King Saul failed to harm David. Finally, David went to Jonathan and asked him what he could have done to make Saul so angry that he would want to kill him.”

DAVID AND JONATHAN FORM A PLAN

LEADER: “Jonathan didn’t think his father was trying to kill David, but he COULD see the fear in David’s eyes, so he knew that David truly believed he was in danger. So he agreed to help David with a plan to find out once and for all if the king was out to get him.

“Let’s read David’s plan in 1 Samuel. *(Open your Bible and read 1 Samuel 20:5-7.)* So David said, “*Tomorrow is the time for the New Moon feast. I’m supposed to eat with the king. But let me go and hide in the field. I’ll stay there until the evening of the day after tomorrow. Your father might miss me. If he does, then tell him, ‘David begged me to let him hurry home to Bethlehem. A yearly sacrifice is being offered there for his whole family group.’ Your father might say, ‘That’s all right.’ If he does, it will mean I’m safe. But he might become very angry. If he does, you can be sure he’s made up his mind to harm me*” (NIV).

“Jonathan promised to find out if his father was planning anything, and he and David came up with a plan to get word to David of Saul’s plans. He told David to go hide by a large stone in the field. Jonathan would shoot three arrows on one side of the stone and send a boy to find them. Depending on which side Jonathan shot the arrows, David would know whether it was safe to stay or whether God was sending him away.”

PLAN IN ACTION

LEADER: “So David hid in the field and waited for the signal.

Move the volunteer to the other side of the room and get him to crouch down behind a couple of chairs.

“As King Saul looked around the full table at the New Moon Feast . . . oh wait, we need a full table, don’t we?”

Bring up volunteers to fill all but one of the seats around the table. As the volunteers are coming to fill the seats, set the place cards around the table so the audience can see who is who.

“As I was saying, as King Saul looked around the full table at the New Moon Feast, he noticed David’s seat was empty. On the second day of the feast, King Saul asked why David wasn’t there and hadn’t been there on the first day either. Jonathan told his father that he had told David that he could go to his hometown to be with his family.

“Saul was furious. He accused Jonathan of being on David’s side. ‘Don’t you understand that you’ll never be king as long as David is alive? He must die!’ Saul yelled at Jonathan and threw his spear toward him.

Pick up the paper airplane from earlier and throw it at the person sitting in Jonathan’s seat.

“The next morning, Jonathan knew what he had to do. He called over a boy and set the rest of the plan in motion to alert David that it wasn’t safe for him to return.

Hand Jonathan the giant rubber band and show him where to shoot.

“As the boy took his place out in the field. Jonathan took up his bow, aimed, and shot. The arrow landed well beyond the boy. From his hiding place nearby, David heard Jonathan’s call. ‘The arrow went beyond you!’ Jonathan shouted. ‘Go and get it! Hurry! Run fast and don’t stop!’

(To volunteers) “You all did a great job helping me with this story. You can go back to your seats while I tell you what happened next.

Dismiss the volunteers to their seats on the floor.

“After the boy had fetched the arrow, Jonathan gave him his bow and sent him on his way. David stood up from his hiding spot and the two friends approached one another. David bowed down to Jonathan three times with his face to the ground. The two of them cried and embraced

each other.

“Jonathan spoke to his friend, Go in peace, dear friend. And promise me you’ll be kind to me as long as I live. And never stop being kind to my family.

“David promised that he would always be Jonathan’s friend. Then he left, fleeing for his life from the enraged King Saul. One day David himself would be king, and he would never forget the promise he made to his best friend.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “Jonathan was an incredible friend to David, wasn’t he? He stood up for David even though David was anointed to be king instead of Jonathan. And he protected David even though his own father wanted to kill him. And David made a promise of friendship to Jonathan too—a promise that he would have a chance to keep years later. David and Jonathan are great examples of what Jesus told his disciples to do. Let’s look at that again.

(Open your Bible and read John 13:34.) “I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you” (NIV).

“That’s exactly the sort of friendship that David and Jonathan had. It wasn’t easy, but that’s what happens sometimes when you want to show love to your friends. Let’s look at our Bottom Line for today.

Point to the Bottom Line poster on the wall.

[Bottom Line] “Friends love one another. Can you say that with me?”

LEADER AND KIDS: “Friends love one another.”

LEADER: “It’s simple for us to say, but I have a feeling figuring out how to do it will take some hard work. Let’s ask God to help us show love to our friends.”

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for showing us how to love by sending us Your Son to die for our sins. Jesus taught us so much about love while He was on the earth, and we want to obey His command to show that love to others. Please help us love each other well, just like David and Jonathan loved each other. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Friendship Feels Like . . .

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Play-Doh®, paper plates, wet wipes

What You Do:

- Hand out the Play-Doh and plates.
- Encourage them to make something that Jonathan gave David that he could hold.
- You can prompt them with some ideas if necessary: royal robe, sword, bow and arrow, military clothes, or belt.

What You Say:

“In our Bible story, Jonathan showed friendship to David in many different ways. He gave David some of his own things as gifts. *(Encourage the kids who made tangible gifts to show them to the group and explain what they are.)* And some of what Jonathan gave David wasn’t really things that you can hold in your hands. *(Encourage kids who made the intangible gifts to show them to the group and explain what they are.)* **[Bottom Line] Friends love one another** in all kinds of ways. Have you ever given a friend a gift on their birthday or a small gift for a special day at sports or in school? What did that feel like? *(Allow for answers.)* Has a friend ever given you some kind, helpful words? What was that like? *(Allow for answers.)* Jonathan and David showed their friendship in words and actions, just like you guys have.”