


LESSON 7: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: FAITHFULNESS

Leader Guide for Grades

Classroom: The Hills Kids

 Galatians 5:22; 1 Samuel 20

11/15/2020

Worship Videos

- “You Forgive Me” (watch or download here)
- “The Love of God” (watch or download here)
- “Whole Lotta Change” (watch or download here)



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- Picture of tree from week 1

Introduce the Lesson

- Say: Last week and over the next few weeks, we’re learning about the fruit of the Spirit. One place fruit grows is on a tree. Show the kids the picture of the large tree with BIG roots.. Last week we added “goodness fruits” because we learned about being good neighbors.
- Say: This week we’ll learn that faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit. Faithfulness is when we stick with our friends..
- Say: Today we’ll find out that being friends with God helps us be faithful friends to others. Since God helps you be faithful.

Share

- Say: **Since we're talking about faithful friends, let's begin by talking about our very best friends.** Share about *your* best friend.
- Have kids share about *their* best friends.
- Have a few kids share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Today we'll learn about some faithful friends in the Bible. Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit, and when we're friends with God, God helps us be faithful friends.**

Pray, thanking God that faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit and that God is a faithful friend to us.

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Galatians 5:22

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control.** There is no law against these things!

- 1 Samuel 20
- In This Passage: David and Jonathan are best friends, even though Jonathan is in line for the throne and God has promised the throne to David. Jonathan's father, Saul, hates David and wants to kill him. Jonathan is a faithful friend as he risks his life to find out whether David is in danger, then sends David safely away from Saul.
- Bible Point: Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit.
- Summary Verse: "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" (Galatians 5:22-23).



Supplies

- “Best Friends Forever” teaching video

Discuss and Watch “Best Friends Forever”

Say: **We’re learning that faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit.**

Ask: • **Tell about a friend you have who has been a faithful friend. Share your own example first.**

Say: **Our Bible story was about faithful friends who showed God’s faithfulness to each other.**

But what would happen if that story happened with rodents instead of people? Let’s find out.

Watch “Best Friends Forever.” [here](#)

Ask: • **What did you think of this story acted out by hamsters and gerbils instead of people?**

• **Think of another animal, and tell what the Bible story would be like if it happened with those animals.**

Say: **David and Jonathan weren’t really rodents, or any other kind of animal. But they *were* faithful to each other. Jonathan protected David and was a faithful friend. Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit.**



Have the kids make up a Friendship moves (winking, thumbs up, kinda like baseball signs that a coach gives to his players) and secret code words or phrases

Say: Today we're learning that faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit. We'll find out about two friends who stayed faithful to each other.

Faithful friendships are great, so let's start by making good friends here!

Say: Okay, remember your friendship move or gesture. You'll use those later as we explore the Bible story!

Take an Oath

Say: The friends in our Bible story were named David and Jonathan. Hold up the paper with their names on it.

Say: David and Jonathan were so close that they were like brothers. They were as connected as the two halves of this paper. Jonathan was King Saul's son. That meant he was in line to be the next king. But God had promised *David* that he'd be the next king, even though David was just a shepherd. Because of that, King Saul—Jonathan's dad—hated David.

Say: David went to find Jonathan and asked him, "Why is your dad trying to kill me?" Have a couple of kids act this out

Say: But Jonathan didn't believe that Saul really wanted to kill David. So they came up with a plan to find out how Saul really felt.

Read 1 Samuel 20:5-7. Have kids use their special friendship move

⁵ David replied, "Tomorrow we celebrate the new moon festival. I've always eaten with the king on this occasion, but tomorrow I'll hide in the field and stay there until the evening of the third day. ⁶ If your father asks where I am, tell him I asked permission to go home to Bethlehem for an annual family sacrifice. ⁷ If he says, 'Fine!' you will know all is well. But if he is angry and loses his temper, you will know he is determined to kill me.

Say: **Next, David and Jonathan had to come up with a secret way to tell what Jonathan found out. If Saul really *did* want to kill David, Jonathan could get in trouble for telling him! Here's what they came up with.**

Read 1 Samuel 20:19-23.

Have kids practice their secret code phrases from earlier.

Say: **David and Jonathan had their own secret code, just like you! Let's do our friendship move.**

Have kids do their friendship move.

Say: **The next day, it was time for the new moon festival to start. So David hid in the field, and Jonathan went to the festival.**

Say: **On the second day of the festival, King Saul noticed that David was missing. So Jonathan was faithful to his and David's plan. Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit.**

Read 1 Samuel 20:27-29.

²⁷ But when David's place was empty again the next day, Saul asked Jonathan, "Why hasn't the son of Jesse been here for the meal either yesterday or today?"

²⁸ Jonathan replied, "David earnestly asked me if he could go to Bethlehem."²⁹ He said, 'Please let me go, for we are having a family sacrifice. My brother demanded that I be there. So please let me get away to see my brothers.' That's why he isn't here at the king's table."

Say: **That's when King Saul got mad. He told Jonathan to go find David so he could kill him. But Jonathan was a faithful friend, so he refused. King Saul got so mad that he hurled a spear at Jonathan!**

Say: **Luckily, King Saul missed. But Jonathan had a clear answer: His dad wanted David dead.**

Say: **It was time for the second part of their plan, where David and Jonathan would use their secret code.**

Read 1 Samuel 20:35-36.

³⁵ The next morning, as agreed, Jonathan went out into the field and took a young boy with him to gather his arrows. ³⁶ "Start running," he told the boy, "so you can find the arrows as I shoot them." So the boy ran, and Jonathan shot an arrow beyond him.

Say: **Let's try using our own secret friendship codes. Jonathan (pick one kid to be Jonathan), you'll come to me and ask, "Can David come out of hiding?" I'll whisper an answer to you. Then, using your secret code, tell your David (pick another kid to be David) whether yes, he can come out of hiding, or no, he should keep hiding.**

Give Jonathan a yes or no, **and let kids communicate in code. Let kids swap out being David and Jonathan.**

Say: **The real Jonathan in the Bible had to tell David "no" because it was not safe to come out. David needed to leave town. So they used their own code.**

Read 1 Samuel 20:37-40.

³⁷ When the boy had almost reached the arrow, Jonathan shouted, "The arrow is still ahead of you. ³⁸ Hurry, hurry, don't wait." So the boy quickly gathered up the arrows and ran back to his master. ³⁹ He, of course, suspected nothing; only Jonathan and David understood the signal. ⁴⁰ Then Jonathan gave his bow and arrows to the boy and told him to take them back to town.

Say: **After Jonathan's servant left, David came out of hiding to say goodbye to Jonathan. This was a really sad moment. They weren't just saying goodbye for a little while; they knew they'd probably never see each other again.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time you had to say goodbye to someone you loved. Share your own story first.**

Say: **When our friends move away, we can sometimes still keep in touch. We might text or call them. But there was no technology for David and Jonathan to keep in touch. They couldn't even send letters; it was too risky since Saul wanted to kill David.**

Walk With One Shoe

Say: **Being apart from people we love feels like something's missing. Let's try something.**

Have kids each take off one shoe and walk around the room a few times.

Ask: • **How does it feel to walk with just one shoe on?**

• **How does that remind you of how it feels to be without a friend?**

Say: **Shoes are meant to be in pairs. When you're missing one, you feel off. You might even walk with a limp. It just doesn't feel right.** Have kids put their shoes back on.

I wonder if that's how David and Jonathan felt when they said goodbye forever. But you know what? Even though they wouldn't see each other again, their hearts remained faithful to each other. Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit, and we can see how God helped David and Jonathan be faithful friends.

Ask: • **What are some things Jonathan had to risk or give up in order to be a faithful friend?**

• **What might *you* have to risk or give up in order to be a faithful friend?**

Share your own story, such as a time you had to risk being teased to stay faithful to someone who was unpopular.

Say: **Jonathan was willing to give up being king because he knew God's plan was for his friend David to be king. He was willing to risk his life to help David escape. Jonathan was a faithful friend. And later on, after David became king and Jonathan had died, David found Jonathan's son and showed kindness to him. Years later, David was still being a faithful friend, because faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit.**



CRAFT

[20 min]

Friendship Necklaces

Supplies

- “Faithful Friends” handout, printed on card stock (1 for every 2 kids)
- crayons
- yarn (24 inches per child)
- tape
- hole punch
- scissors

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Talk About Faithful Friends

Say: **Today we heard that David and Jonathan were faithful friends even when it was hard. Being friends with God helped David and Jonathan be faithful friends. And God will help us be faithful friends, too, because faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit.**

Show the sample craft. Say: **This is a friendship necklace. Each friend gets half of the heart to remind friends that they’re still friends, even when they’re not together.**

Share about a friend who isn’t with you all the time. You might share about a friend who lives out of town or even a friend who lives just across town.

Say: **Tell about a friend or family member who isn’t with you all the time.** Kids might share about a friend at school, a grandparent, or a cousin who lives out of town.

Make Friendship Necklaces

Say: **We also don’t see our friends here at church all the time, but we can still be faithful friends to each other like David and Jonathan were faithful when**

they were apart. Let's make friendship necklaces to remind us we're faithful friends with our friends here at church, even when we're apart.

- Pair up kids, and give each pair a "Faithful Friends" handout and some scissors. Have kids work together to cut out half a heart for each of them.
- Have kids color the hearts.
- After kids finish coloring, have them punch a hole, thread yarn through the hole, and then tape the ends together to make a necklace.
- Encourage kids to practice putting the hearts together with their friends' hearts to see how they fit together. They can match their necklaces with all the other kids' hearts, either with both front sides showing or with the two heart halves facing opposite directions.

Say: **We can all be faithful friends in this class. God helps us be faithful friends like David and Jonathan because faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit.**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

Linked Friends

Make the “Friend” Sign

Say: Today we learned that faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit and God is always a faithful friend to us. **Show the sign language for “friend.”** This is a sign we can use that means “friend.” **Practice with me.** Lead kids in making the friend sign.



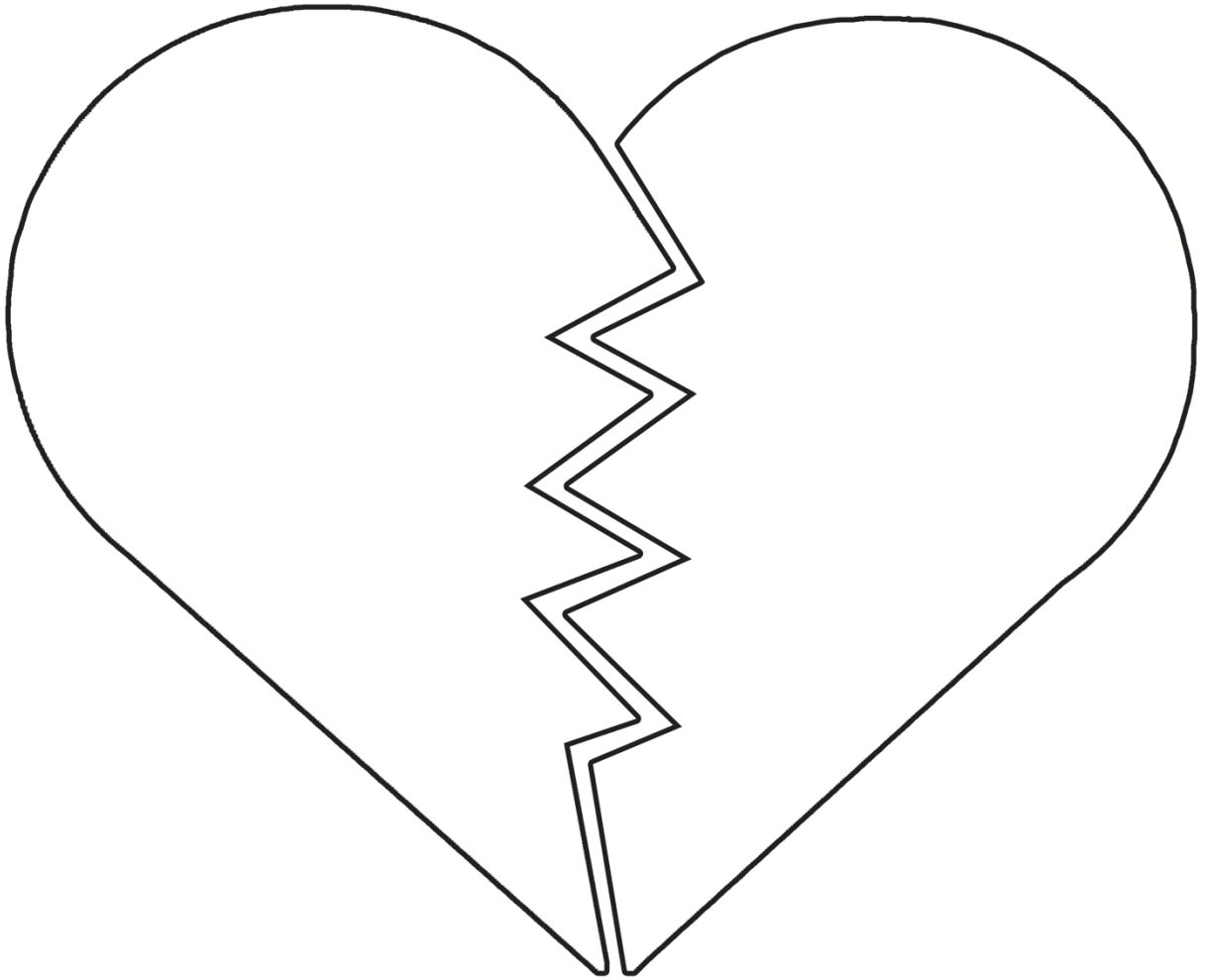
Say: **Since we’re all friends here, let’s make the friend sign *with our friends!*** Have kids form a circle, and show them how to link their index fingers with the kids beside them. **Now we’re making the sign for friend with all our friends here!**

Pray

Say: **When we’re friends with God, he helps us be faithful friends like David and Jonathan were. Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit, so God shows us how to be faithful friends because he loves us so much! Let’s thank God for being a faithful friend to us and ask him to help us be faithful friends to others.** Lead kids in a brief prayer as they continue to link their fingers together.

Say: **I’m so glad to be friends with all of you!** Lead kids in lifting their linked fingers and shouting “Faithful friends!” Then invite kids to come back to see all their friends at church next week.

Faithful Friends



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