

Friends Worship as One

Bible: Friends Worship as One (worship with one another) • *Hebrews 10:24-25*

Bottom Line: Friends worship with each other.

Memory Verse: “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

Life App: Friendship—treating others the way you want to be treated.

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

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Full Plate

- One sturdy paper plate
- 20 paper Dixie® cups

10:15

Friends ...

- “Friendship Bottom Line” (Activity Page), one per kid
- Pencils

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Drop It

- Bibles
- One paper cup for every two kids
- One penny for every two kids

10:15

More Than Music

- Paper
- Markers

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- “Praise Links” (Activity Page); three strips per kid
- Pens
- Stapler

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

9:00 & 11:30

Full Plate

What You Need: sturdy paper plate; paper Dixie® cups

What You Do:

Stand or sit in a circle. Choose someone to begin then hand him the plate and a cup. Ask him to place the cup on the plate then name something he did this past week. Did he take a vacation, eat ice cream, clean his room, mow grass, go to a movie, brush his teeth, babysit, go to softball practice, do a chore at home, practice the tuba ... ? Pass the plate to the left and ask the next person to share and add another cup. When no more cups will fit on the plate, have kids begin stacking as a pyramid but not one cup inside the other. Continue until one of the cups fall off, then begin again. Repeat as time allows letting kids name more and more things they've done or places they've been this past week.

What You Say:

“Wow! Our lives are full of activities and events. We have a ‘full plate’ when it comes to all of the things we pack into our day. These might be really good things to do with our time, but we can become so busy with a lot of good stuff that it keeps us from some of the best things we can do with our time. We only have so much time in our day, and God wants us to share some of that time with Him. Coming to church is one way we can be with others who love Jesus and worship Him together. **[Transition] Let’s share some time with God right now as we go to Large Group and worship Him together.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15

Friends ...

What You Need: “Friendship Bottom Line” (Activity Page), one per kid; pencils

What You Do:

Give kids a word puzzle with each of the friendship Bottom Lines they have learned the last two months. Kids will have to unscramble the missing word in the Bottom Line. See if they can identify the “mystery” action word for this week.

What You Say:

“You did a great job remembering all the ways we have learned to treat our friends AND figuring out what we are going to talk about today. **[Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to hear how we can worship with our friends.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible
- Videos (or pictures) of your three staff members doing these various activities—first with two or three people together, then again with just one. (*Note: These are just suggestions; you can always come up with your own activities that are NOT fun with one.*)
 - Tag
 - Pool
 - Swinging
 - Video Games
 - Ping Pong
 - Trust fall
 - Party

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- “Raise Your Hand High”
- “This Love”
- “My God Can”

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

CG: 10 Second count down

CG: Theme Slide

Host enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HOST: “Good morning! I am so glad to see you this morning. We are going to jump right into our Bible Truth today. Today’s Bible Truth is a great reminder of how important it is for us to spend time together. (*Hold up Bible*) Although in these verses, it’s talking about US. (*Motioning around the room*) Your Small Group. The Church!

“First, let me ask you a question. Do we really need friends? I mean, think about it. We can do so much on our own, right? Think about all the technology we use. If we have a question, we can just Google it. Anytime. Anywhere. We play video games and stare at a screen for hours on end. We can even order a pizza online so we don’t have to talk to anyone on the phone. So, it’s really easy for us to feel like we can do everything by ourselves.

“But is that really how God made us to live? Do we really NEED other people? (*Pause.*) What if you tried to do everything by yourself? Would it really be better with just one? Well, take a look at this and we’ll find out.”

BETTER WITH ONE?

Note: These are videos of staff members doing these various activities—first with two or three people together, then again with just one.

CG: Tag

CG: CG: Tag

CG: Pool

CG: Swinging

CG: Video Games

CG: Ping Pong

CG: Trust fall

CG: Party

KEEP MEETING TOGETHER

HISTORYTELLER: “Okay, so is life better with one? No way! We need friends! Life wouldn’t be any fun if you were by yourself all the time. God designed you to have people around you—to help you, support you, and encourage you.

“Listen to these verses from the book of Hebrews, chapter ten, verses twenty-four and twenty-five.

Open the Bible and read Hebrews 10:24-25a.

“‘And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.’ (NIV)

CG: Week 4 Verse Slide

“You see, God knows that if we’re going to follow Him, we can’t really do it on our own. We need other people. We need friends! God wants us to have people in our lives that can cheer us on as we make wise choices and live the way He wants us to live.

“Look around you right now. This is why you’re in a Small Group! This is why you have a leader who cares about you and wants what’s best for you. This is why you have a group of friends. You can encourage them, and they can encourage you!

FRIENDSHIP REVIEW

HISTORYTELLER: “Alright, now I need nine of you to come up here for a minute. I need your help to show why friendship is so important.

Bring nine kids up on stage (possibly an entire Small Group).

“We need friends. We need to keep meeting together. Because here’s what friends do!

One by one, give each kid a Review Poster to represent the six weeks of the Friendship series. Have the kids spread out on stage so the audience can see all nine of the signs.

[Impress] “Friends love each other.”

[Impress] “Friends welcome each other.”

[Impress] “Friends are patient with each other.”

[Impress] “Friends serve each other.”

[Impress] “Friends accept each other.”

“And this last one is what we’re talking about today: **[Impress]** friends worship with each other.

(To the nine kids on stage) “Okay, you guys can stick your signs on the wall here for me. Awesome. Thanks.”

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “THIS is what friends do for each other. (*Referencing the signs*) THIS is why God created us to need others—to need Him, and each other. God created us to worship Him together with others.

“You see, when we hear the word *worship*, we tend to think of it as music. But it’s so much more than that! Worship is what you DO. Worship is showing God you love Him by the way you act and the way you treat others. So, when you (*reference the signs*) love each other, or serve each other, or forgive each other—when you **[Recycle] treat others the way you want to be treated**—that’s a great way to worship God!

“That’s why it’s so important for you and me to go to church! That’s why it’s so important to share with each other in the circle of our Small Groups. We need others to help us stay strong and focused on the way God wants us to live. It’s just like the verse in Hebrews says: ‘Let us not give up meeting together.’ Because God does incredible things through people—through friends who circle up together to worship Him.

“Remember, **[Impress] friends worship with each other.**

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Remember our verse.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“It really is a gift for us to share life together and share our hope in God. And praying together is such a big part of that. So, let’s do that right now. Will you guys huddle up with your Small Group, football-style? I’ll lead us.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, thank You so much for the friends in this room—for the circle of friends You’ve put in place, so we can grow stronger in our relationship with You and with each other. We know that You made it this way, so that we could share life together and encourage each other along the way. Please help us to remember all that we’ve learned about friendship—how we can love and serve each other and find strength in these friendships you’ve created. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“If you have an offering with you go ahead and bring that on up now.”

“Everyone on your feet for some of our favorite friends and help me welcome the Power Praise Team in here.”

Power Praise Team enters.

WORSHIP

SFX: "Raise Your Hands High"

SFX: "This Love"

SFX: "My God Can"

Power Praise team exits. Host enters.

Host calls all small group leaders onto the stage and form a rocket-style line, with arms around each other's waists.

Closer

HOST: "So the one thing about friendship to remember today is this:"

HOST and SMALL GROUP LEADERS: [*Impress*] "Friends worship with each other."

CG: *Bottom Line Slide*

HOST: (*To kids*) "Say it with us!"

KIDS and LEADERS: [*Impress*] "Friends worship with each other."

HOST: "One more time!"

KIDS and LEADERS: [*Impress*] "Friends worship with each other!"

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids exit.*

All Leaders meet in the center of the stage and "bring it in," then raise their hands victoriously.

HOSTS: "Ahhhhhhh ... FRIENDSHIP!"

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: *Small Group Slide*

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

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

9:00 & 11:30

Drop It

What You Need: Bibles, pennies, cups

What You Do:

Proverbs 17:17 has been our theme verse for this month. Take a moment to review it by reading it aloud from your Bible to the kids. (“A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes.”) Pause after the first two words to see if anyone can finish it for you. Give those who are willing an opportunity to quote it from memory.

Invite all of the kids to look up Hebrews 10:24-25. Ask someone to read it aloud while the others follow along in their Bibles. If kids have a variety of translations, let them share different words and phrases that give greater meaning and understanding. Ask them to identify portions of the verses that tell us what to DO. Have them look for the parts that express a DON'T. For example, DO be concerned; DON'T stay away, etc. **[Apply] How can they make those dos and don'ts part of the way they live and interact with others this week?**

Ask kids to pair up and sit on the floor facing their partner with a distance of about three feet between them. Place a cup two feet in front of one partner. Ask that partner to close one eye. Tell *the other partner* to hold a penny in the air about 18 inches above the cup then slowly move it left to right over the cup. Explain that the partner with the penny will let go of the penny whenever the other partner says, “Drop it!” The goal is for the partner with one eye closed to judge when the penny is directly over the cup so that it will drop into it. Give five tries with one eye closed, then five tries with both eyes open. Let partners switch places and play again.

What You Say:

“Two eyes are definitely better than one! But eyes aren't the only things that work better together. People do too! We need friends for a lot of reasons. One of the reasons is because **[Impress] friends worship with each other. [Apply] God designed us to share life together and encourage each other along the way. When we see our friends at church every week, we have the opportunity to ask how things are going so we can pray, serve, love, and help one another. We need each other to stay strong and stay focused on the way God wants us to live.**”

10:15**More than Music****What You Need:** Paper, markers**What You Do:**

Invite the kids to give their own definition of the word *worship* by finishing this sentence: "Worship is _____."

Discussion Questions

- What are some of the ways we express our praise to God in worship?
- Why do you come to church? Do you miss it when you're not here? Does anyone come just because your parents come, or would you come if you could drive yourself here?
- Can we worship God without singing? Explain. Can we worship Him without using words at all?
- When it comes to worshiping God together with our friends—or really any time—what would you say is the most important thing to remember?
- What do you experience when you worship with others that you wouldn't experience by worshiping alone?

Set out paper and markers. Ask the kids to illustrate in pictures, colors, shapes, or other design what they feel when they are worshiping with others. Encourage creative expression and let them know that there is no right or wrong idea.

When finished, have kids share their pictures by showing each other what they drew and explaining the meaning behind it.

What You Say:

"When we say that **[Impress] friends worship with each other**, we probably picture a group of people singing songs together in church. The word *worship* usually makes us think of music. But just as you mentioned, worship is more than that! Worship is definitely happening when we sing to God, but we can worship God when we live loud, in what we DO every day. **[Apply] We show our love for God by worshipping Him in the way we act, and the way we treat others. When we love each other, or serve each other, or forgive each other, that's actually an act of worship to God.** In order to grow in our faith, we definitely need friends to pray for us, encourage us, and keep us on track at times. We also need friends who will worship with us—which is one of the reasons we meet here every week. We get to worship our amazing God TOGETHER!"

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)**

What You Need: "Praise Link" (Activity Page), pens, stapler

What You Do:

Give each of the kids a pen and three strips from the "Prayer Link" Activity Page. Invite the kids to quietly complete the sentence on each of their strips with a short phrase. For example, they might write, "Dear God, I praise You for Your power."

After a few minutes, collect the "Praise Link" strips and have everyone sit together in a circle. Explain that you'd like everyone to join in a time of praise to God in prayer. Instruct one of the kids to take one of his "Prayer Links," read it aloud as a spoken prayer, then have him form a circle with the paper and staple it together. Pass the stapler to the left and have the next kid do the same. Direct him to loop his paper strip through the first one to form a chain. Continue until all of the strips have been "prayed" and linked together.

What You Say:

"I'm so thankful that we are able to link our praises together and tell them to God. Just like we connected paper strips to form a chain as we prayed, when we worship with our friends, we're connected to each other and to God. **[Impress] Friends worship with each other.** Not only is this something that we've enjoyed doing together today, this is something we've enjoyed doing together for several weeks as we've learned what it means to be a friend. **[Apply] Your friendship with others will continue to grow as you love, welcome, teach, show patience, serve, accept, forgive, encourage, and worship with each other.** You guys are some of my favorite friends, and I can't wait to see you again next week."

Dismiss

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive to pick up.

FRIENDSHIP:

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

Friends _____ with each other. (rea tatnipe)

Friends _____ each other. (evser)

Friends _____ each other.(vole)

Friends _____ each other. (cloweme)

Friends _____ each other. (cpecta)

Friendship: What we will learn today ...

Friends _____ with each other. (prowhis)

friendSHIP:

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

Friends _____ with each other. (rea tatnipe)

Friends _____ each other. (evser)

Friends _____ each other.(vole)

Friends _____ each other. (cloweme)

Friends _____ each other. (cpecta)

Friendship: What we will learn today ...

Friends _____ with each other. (prowhis)

What to Do:

Copy and cut apart. Each kid needs one half sheet.

Friendship Bottom Line

July 2014, Week 4, Small Group 2-3
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“FRIENDS LOVE EACH OTHER.”

“FRIENDS WELCOME EACH OTHER.”

“Friends are patient with each other.”

“Friends serve each other.”

“Friends encourage each other.”

“FRIENDS WORSHIP WITH EACH OTHER.”

WHAT TO DO:

Make one copy on cardstock for each group. Cut the strips apart.

First to the Verse

DEAR GOD, i PRAISE YOU FOR _____

DEAR GOD, i PRAISE YOU FOR _____

DEAR GOD, i PRAISE YOU FOR _____

DEAR GOD, i PRAISE YOU FOR _____

DEAR GOD, i PRAISE YOU FOR _____

DEAR GOD, i PRAISE YOU FOR _____

WHAT TO DO:

Make one copy on white or colored paper for every two kids. Cut the strips apart.