

What a Good Friend Does Loving Your Neighbor Grades 4-6



Goal:

Students will learn the difference between treating others with respect and using them as a means for an end. Activities will reinforce the qualities of a good friend, and what each of our responsibility is toward others. Topics will include being gossiping, bullying, and internet safety.

Lesson:

Today's lesson is about friendship. Each and every person is created in the image of God. And, he is Trinity. In the Trinity, there are 3 persons though only one God. This means that God is always living in the most perfect friendship within himself. Difficult to understand at times, but it means for us that God created us to be in friendship with others all the time.

Discussion:

What does it mean to be a good friend?

What are some of the qualities you like in friends?

What are some of the qualities you try to have yourself to be a good friend to others?

There are many factors that can make it difficult to be a good friend. To follow the example of God in the Trinity, being a good friend means always doing what is best for the other person, even if it is not the very best thing for ourselves.

Kids and teens spend so much of their time on instant electronic communication. How often do we stop to ask what they are texting/posting/tweeting/snap-chatting about?

Activity:

Ask students if they are willing to share the following:

The last 5 texts on their phones

The last post/tweet they wrote

The last photo they instagrammed

The first thing they said to their best friend when they got to school today

Much of the content we share through conversation or social media is positive and harmless, even fun. But, some of the content can be very hurtful. We all know of instances in which people have been very hurt by gossip. Sometimes it can even go so far as to cause someone to change schools, have depression, or even hurt themselves. What can we do to stop this cycle?

Watch:

"Video on Gossip" followed by the light-hearted "Pixar Tennis Birds"

Discussion:

Knowing that we are meant to reflect the great love and friendship of the Trinity, how might we not only stop gossiping ourselves, but commit to making our classes, families and schools gossip free?

Watch:

Two clips from Lord of the Rings: "Worth Fighting For" and "I Can Carry You".
As students watch the clips, ask them to be thinking about the qualities of a good friend.

Discussion:

After watching the clips, lead a class discussion about what qualities make a good friend. You can use the following questions, or create some of your own. You may also want to use this activity as a writing prompt on friendship.

What qualities did Sam have? What made him a good friend to Frodo? {List them on the board.}

What are the other qualities you look for in a friend? Which qualities are the most important and why?

What would have happened to Frodo had Sam not been a good friend? Could Frodo have defeated the Ring on his own?

Do you have friends who are to you like Sam was to Frodo? Are you a Sam to someone else?

Additional Activity. Have students make a list of the five qualities of a friend they value as most important. After they have their list of five qualities, ask them to give *themselves* a rating on those same five qualities {1-10}. Remind them that to *have* a good friend, it's important that they *be* one, first.

Activity:

Students are asked to be investigative reporters for a TMZ-style website. Instead of hunting up the dirt on people, we will be investigating their very best qualities.

Break the class into pairs, preferably students who do not know each other very well.

Give them a list of questions and ask them to make up some of their own:

Where were you born?

Who is in your family?

Where would you like to travel most?

What is your greatest aspiration?

What is your greatest accomplishment?

Who is your favorite person you have ever eaten a meal with?

Optional: while students are conducting interviews, play Bruno Mars and Demi Lovato songs about friendship.

Once students have completed their interviews, ask them to share what they have learned with the class. Remind them that it is always best to get to know people before making judgments about them. When we first see or meet new people, it is easy to recognize our differences. But, once we get to know someone personally—learn about them and where they come from—we begin to notice similarities that can build friendships.

Prayer:

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Saint Augustine of Hippo

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.

Amen.

Teachers' Note:

This day's activities correspond with the study of Human Trafficking for the older grades. Part of this discussion focused on keeping kids safe, particularly on the internet. On the website, you will find resources for internet safety for kids of all ages. Please review these and share them with your class parents as appropriate.

