

Faithful Friends Sunday School Lesson

Today's HOPE (main point): I can look more and more like Jesus.

Our theme for this month is friendship, and last time we looked at a story of a very special friendship in the Old Testament. Can anyone tell me who we talked about last time? (David and Jonathan)

We read about David and Jonathan in the book of 1 Samuel. Scripture tells us that Jonathan loved David as himself, and he gave him some special gifts. Can anyone tell me what they were? (His robe, tunic, sword, belt, and bow.)

That got me to thinking....remember that Jonathan's father was King Saul, and his robe was likely his royal robe. David was not royalty, not yet, but when he put that robe on, I'm sure he looked very royal!

Now, stay with me...let's think about another type of friendship...man's best friend- that's right, dogs! Have you heard stories about how people sometimes look like their dogs? You may have seen pictures of people who resemble their dogs. They're quite funny. Some people really do look like their dogs!

We might think that that's because they spend so much time with their dogs, but studies actually prove that people often choose dogs who look like them.



However, scripture does tell us that we become like the people we spend a lot of time with. Our moms were right to be worried if we started hanging around with the wrong crowd.

1 Corinthians 15: 33 says: Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

And Proverbs 12:26 says, The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Proverbs 13:20 says, Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Can anyone give me an example of how a friendship influenced you? Did you hang around with some bad people and then you made some bad choices? Or did you start hanging around with some really good friends who helped make you a better person? (I can give two examples: when I first started teaching, I worked with teachers who were all northerners/midwesterners. I soon lost my KY accent and didn't even know it! Other people noticed! Also, I have a dear friend who is so kind, she never says anything ugly about anyone else, and she inspires me to be the same way.)

It's true for kids and adults- we have to always be careful about the company we keep.



Last time, we also talked about our true and most faithful friend. Who is that? (Jesus)

The more time we spend with Jesus, the more we will become like Him. How can we spend more time with Jesus? (read the Bible, pray, spend time with other believers, listen to Christian music, etc.)

Remember that last time we said that nearly every story in the Old Testament points us to Jesus in some way. We said that the friendship, the covenant, between Jonathan and David points us to the ultimate covenant friend, Jesus.

Well, so does the robe. Let me show you....

Galatians 3: 26-27: So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

When David put on Jonathan's robe, he looked like the son of a king. People who didn't know who David was might have seen him in the robe and thought he was a king, just because of the robe. So when we become Christians, and when we are baptized, we put on Christ. That's important because when God looks at us, He sees His Son Jesus. He doesn't see our sin, He sees His perfect Son.



That doesn't mean that we are perfect. On this side of heaven, we still sometimes forget we have that robe on and we do things that aren't very Christ-like. That's why we have to make sure we are spending time with Jesus and with our Christian friends. We look like the people we hang around with.

I always tell my kids that the people they hang around with will either point them *to* Jesus or *away* from Him. And the same is true inversely- I can be , and you can be, someone who points people to Jesus or away from Him. Let's all work together on being people who point each other *to* Jesus so we can look more like Him.

I'm going to read this prayer, and if you agree with it, you can join me in reading it together a second time.

Prayer: Lord, help me to look more and more like You. Help me to be a friend who points people to You, and please give me friends who help point me to You. Thank you for sending Jesus to give me His robe of righteousness. Amen.





Faithful Friends

Sunday school lesson: Friendship, part 2

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1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Proverbs 12:26 The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Proverbs 13:20 Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Galatians 3: 26-27 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

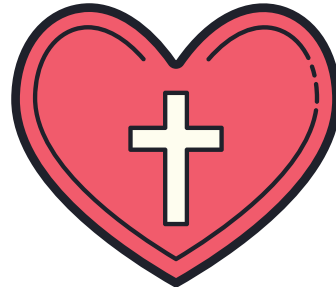
Prayer: Lord, help me to look more and more like You. Help me to be a friend who points people to You, and please give me friends who help point me to You. Thank you for sending Jesus to give me His robe of righteousness. Amen.



Oh, How I Love Jesus

1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear, The sweetest name on earth.

Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
because He first loved me!



2. It tells me of a Savior's love, Who died to set me free;
It tells me of his precious blood, The sinner's perfect plea.

Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
because He first loved me!

3. It tells of One whose loving heart Can feel my deepest woe,
Who in each sorrow bears a part, That none can bear below.

Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
because He first loved me,

Because He first loved me, Because He first loved me!

Blessed Assurance

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*



2. Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Great is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided:
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided:
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!



Just a Closer Walk with Thee

1. Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. I am weak but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to thee.

3. Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

4. Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



Shall We Gather at the River

1. Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God.



Yes, we'll gather at the river
The beautiful, the beautiful river
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

2. Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

Yes, we'll gather at the river
The beautiful, the beautiful river
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Complete the Sentence; Friendship

Use the Bible verses on page 1 to help you fill in the blanks.

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1. Bad company corrupts
good

2. _____
Walk with the

and become wise .

3. The righteous choose
their friends _____ .

4. All of you who were baptized into Christ
have _____ yourself with
_____ .

5. A companion of _____
suffers harm .

6. So in Christ Jesus you are all
_____ of God through
_____ .

wise children
character
carefully fools
clothed faith
Christ

