









FOLLOWERS - LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
5	3	5	Christian Living	Ears, Mouths and Hearts	12: Listening to My Friends

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes
(Mod. = Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Num [NO. column] and Title)

							
Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L	Spatial S	Kinaesthetic K	Musical M	Intra - personal P1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N

Tick the appropriate box(es) above [copy this: ☒] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you have called me to love you with all that I am, heart, soul, mind, and strength. Today I'm reminded especially of the opportunity I have to love you. All praise be to you, O God. Amen.

Starter: Friends circle. Invite children to sit in a circle and play a Friends Game. Each child can take a turn at saying another child's name and why he is a good friend. Encourage children to name children who have not been named yet. Children may need ideas of what to say, such as "you are kind, you listen to your parents, you smile, you helped me," etc. After playing the game for a little while so everyone gets called on, invite children to pray in that circle and thank Jesus for being their best friend.

Learning objectives: To learn that listening has a strong connection with prayer, as we strive to be like the greatest listener, Jesus Christ. To learn about spiritual friendship, praying and worshipping together and growing together in Christ. To understand that friendship with God is the greatest friendship and our communion with God is expressed in love.

Core Activities and Learning

1. Children will remember that friendship is a relationship with a person you know well and regard with affection and trust, friendship is a wonderful mystery wherein people share a heart. Explain to the children that God is love, and Jesus is the example we have of love. When we have Jesus in our heart, we can also see people the same way Jesus does, with love, compassion, kindness and concern. The teacher will tell the children that God gives us friends and will invite children to be a good friend, to love and support each other without expecting something in return, spending time together, sharing ideas and treats, having fun, respecting each other's differences, loyalty, sticking up for each other, caring for each other's safety and wellbeing, both of you working on the skills to keep your friendship going.

The teacher will talk to children about how to be a true friend and how to talk and listen to our friends. Engage the children in discussion by the use of pictures and illustrations commenting and asking questions about what they observe. Talk about what interests you, about what is going on around you, e.g. favourite toys/ games/ book, sports, music, shared interests; share the conversation, so that you each get a chance to be listeners and talkers; listen to what your friends are saying and ask questions about it; praise your friends when they do something well; use your manners - say please and thank you (friends like to be pleasant to each other); think of yourself as being a friendly person, look friendly and be friendly - and others will find you friendly; be aware of others' feelings - think before you speak (sometimes it is a good idea to keep your thoughts to yourself rather than upset people's feelings); handle the challenges - by being clear about what you want and how you will compromise; share your time with other friends; be honest about your feelings, e.g. "I don't think this is a good idea because..." But don't always try to be the leader - try out other people's ideas.

2. Friends are often the first people that we turn to when we're feeling sad or have something on our minds. You can also help a friend who's having a hard time by offering support and an open ear.

By giving your friend the chance to talk about how he or she is feeling, you may be helping him or her manage important feelings. The teacher will tell children to let their friend know that you're listening. This might reassure the friend and let him or her know that you care. You can show that you're listening by asking questions to get a better understanding of what your friend has been talking about; say what you think, feel or sense about what your friend has said; repeating back in your own words what they have been saying.

The teacher will explain that listening has a strong connection with prayer, as we strive to be like the greatest listener, Jesus Christ. He listens in order to offer us His very own Life by allowing us to share our troubles with Him. If we could all be listeners like Jesus Christ, our friends would feel a weight lifted off their shoulders when they speak. They would share their opinions, emotions, sins, without fear of judgment, if you and I were better listeners.

When we find ourselves in a position where we need someone to listen to us, we can trust that we will be able to find someone who will extend us the same courtesy. The same courtesy that Jesus Christ extends us every time that we pray to Him.

3. The teacher will tell children that a friend is someone who cares for your salvation as much as they care for their own. A true friend should be there to listen to you whenever you need them, a true friend should give you advice and lead you towards the path of righteousness, a true friend should be someone with understanding and, most of all, forgiveness. A true friend should forgive your mistakes just as God forgives all of ours.

The teacher will encourage discussion about spiritual friendship and ask when was the last time you prayed with a friend? Or lent a sympathetic ear? Or a voice of reassurance? How about voicing gratitude for a friendship? Or serving a friend, doing something totally self-less in order to help someone else?

The teacher will explain children that we need spiritual friendship, we need people to encourage us to pray, worship, and behave; we need friends to hold us accountable and sometimes we need people to tell us the good news of God again, when we are going through a hard time. Spiritual friends help friends to keep God present in our life. When one is falling down, the other picks them up with encouragement.

Resources: The Bible for Young Children, icon of Jesus, pictures that illustrate friendship and positive relationships

Review: In the next session ask one of the children to recall what we have learnt this Sunday.

Follow Up: In the next session ask one of the children to recall what we have learnt this Sunday.