

Unit 1: BFFs

Faith Focus: Jesus is our friend.

Friends love all the time. (Proverbs 17:17)

SESSION 4

GROW IN FAITH

Friends Listen—John 4:4-42

Today's Bible story is one that boldly proclaims the fullness of God's love. In the story, Jesus stops to rest during the hottest part of the day and asks for a drink. This seems like a relatively simple request, but it is made to a Samaritan woman. According to the social rules of biblical times, Jesus should not have spoken to her. Jesus was a man and a Jewish teacher, which, among other things, would have been two distinct enough reasons to avoid this interaction. By choosing to speak to a Samaritan woman, Jesus challenges societal expectations.

Jesus not only asks the Samaritan woman for a drink, he has a conversation with her. After talking and listening, Jesus takes this interaction a step further and offers her "living water." Jesus extends inclusive hospitality to the Samaritan woman and names her as worthy of God's grace and love. By this example, Jesus reminds us that he is a caring and compassionate friend to everyone, and we should be the same.

- Play listening games.
- Utilize water play.

SUPPLIES

pencils

crayons

clipboards (optional)

scissors

CEB Bible storybook

TV and DVD player or streaming device

sticky notes

masking tape

plastic tubs

bowls

spoons

tarp or plastic sheet

containers of various sizes

kiddie pool (if available)

water

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—Jesus Is Our Friend

Tell the Story (Storytelling)

FUN WITH FAITH

I Know My Friends (Game)

Living Water Play (Sensory)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with the supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15), Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23), and Unit 1 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Spring Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the water jug sticker on the Session 4 space.

SAY: We are learning about how Jesus is a good friend. And he wants to be our friend!

ASK: What is a good friend like? What do they do? What do they say?

Faith Focus—Jesus Is Our Friend

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, pencils, crayons, clipboards (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23). Photocopy "Interview a Friend" (Leader Guide—p. 34) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Interview a Friend" and a clipboard if desired.

SAY: Today we are talking about friends. One of the ways friends show they care is by listening. When someone listens to you, that means they care about you and about your thoughts and feelings.

- Have children pair up and fill out the interview sheet with their partners. They can write or draw the answers to their questions.
- Invite children to share with the whole group what they learned about their friends.

SAY: Jesus showed that he cared about people by listening to them and talking to them. Today we will hear a story about a woman Jesus talked to.

Tell the Story

Supplies: Activity Sheets, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Tell the Story" (Session 4 Activity Sheet) for each child.

- Give each child an activity sheet.

SAY: All of the images on this sheet are part of our Bible story today.

ASK: What do you think the story is that we will tell?

- Go over each image and invite the children to wonder about how it fits into the story.
- Have the children cut out the story elements. Save these materials for after you read the Bible story.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB Bible storybook, storytelling pieces from “Tell the Story”

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4:4-42) from your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: Do you think Jesus was a good listener in this story? Why or why not? How can you be a good listener?

SAY: When Jesus met the woman at the well, he knew that she was different from him. But he wanted to get to know her, so they had a conversation. During their conversation, Jesus was able to know more about the woman, and he was able to share with her about God’s love. Jesus and the woman listened to each other and shared the good news together!

- Divide the children into small groups of two or three. Have them use the storytelling figures to retell the story to each other.

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 4 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Share the questions on the screen with the children. You may also choose to add your own questions. Give children time to share their responses and ideas.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, pencils, crayons, sticky notes

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14) and Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) if you haven’t already.

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.

- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you: “Friends love all the time” (Proverbs 17:17).

SAY: Friends show their love all the time through their words and actions. Someone becomes a friend when they show they care about you by listening to you and getting to know you.

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.

ASK: Jesus wants us to be his friends and follow him; what do you want Jesus to know about you?

- As the children share, invite them to each draw or write a response on a sticky note and add it to the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

I Know My Friends

Supplies: *masking tape*

- Gather children to stand in a circle with one person in the middle. In front of each child, place one piece of masking tape to mark that spot on the floor.

ASK: How did Jesus get to know the woman at the well? How do you get to know someone?

- Let the person standing in the center of the circle say, “I know my friends like [something].” All the people who agree with that statement move to a different part of the circle. The child in the center also tries to get a spot. The last person left without a spot speaks next.
- Repeat until all children have had a turn.

ASK: Did you learn anything new about someone while we played this game? What did you learn?

SAY: Jesus gave us an example of how to be a good friend.

Living Water Play

Supplies: *plastic tubs, bowls, spoons, tarp or plastic sheet, containers of various sizes, kiddie pool (if available), water*

Prepare Ahead: *Spread a tarp or a plastic sheet on the floor in one area. Fill various containers with water. If the weather and your space allow, this may be a good activity to do outside.*

SAY: In our Bible story today, Jesus met the woman at the well. A well is a place where people can get water out of the ground. Wells were important places because humans need clean water to live.

ASK: When do you drink water? How do you feel when you drink water?

- Invite children to explore the water in the play area. Set some guidelines for how to play with water and be safe and healthy.
- Encourage children to share water with one another, pouring from different vessels and using different spoons and bowls to play.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, bowl, water

Prepare Ahead: Display the Spring Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21). Photocopy the Unit 1 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 91–92) as needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

ASK: How can you be a friend to Jesus? What do you think Jesus wants his friends to say and do?

SAY: Friends learn over time to trust one another. They know that a friend will show up for them and help them when they are in need. Jesus is a friend that we can trust. Sometimes in church we call that kind of trust “faith.” We can have faith that Jesus is our friend and loves us all the time.

- Share a blessing with each child by dipping your fingers in a bowl of water and making a cross on the back of their hand. As you do so, say, “Jesus loves you, [child’s name].”
- Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: God, thank you for listening to us all the time. Thank you for sending Jesus as an example of how we can be friends to others. Show us each day how we can spread the good news of God’s love. Amen.

- Send the Family Faith Letter and activity home with each child who hasn’t received them.
- Also send home any activities or items made during today’s session.

REPRODUCIBLE

SESSION 4

Interview a Friend

Fill out this page with a friend. Then share what you learned with your whole group!

The form is designed to look like a clipboard with a clip at the top. It contains two columns of questions for interviewing a friend. Each question is followed by a horizontal line for the answer. The questions are: 'My name:', 'My friend's name:', 'My friend's birthday:', 'My friend's favorite color:', 'My friend's favorite animal:', 'My friend's favorite food:', 'What my friend likes to do for fun:', and 'A picture of my friend:'. The last question is followed by a large rectangular box for a drawing.

My name:	My friend's name:
_____	_____
My friend's birthday:	My friend's favorite color:
_____	_____
My friend's favorite animal:	My friend's favorite food:
_____	_____
What my friend likes to do for fun:	A picture of my friend:

