

Unit 1: BFFs

Faith Focus: Jesus is our friend.

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

SESSION 5

GROW IN FAITH

Friends Share—Matthew 26:17-35

Many of the stories we know about Jesus' ministry involve a meal. The act of eating together fostered fellowship and friendship. In this story, Jesus sent his disciples into Jerusalem to make preparations for a celebratory meal. Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his disciples. When Jesus offered these elements to his friends, he spoke words that are familiar to many of us from the Communion ritual. These symbols represented Jesus and his desires for his followers to continue his ministry after he was gone.

During the meal, Jesus spoke of the disciple who would betray him. The disciples did not quite understand what Jesus was talking about. But as readers of the story, we can see that the food shared and the words spoken were preparing Jesus' friends for his death. Like the disciples, we too are Jesus' friends, and we are called to remember him. Each time you share a meal with your friends and family, remember Jesus. Fellowshiping with one another is one way we follow Jesus' teaching to love one another. It is difficult to dislike someone when you are sharing a meal together.

- Dive deeper into symbols.
- Look for other ways to remember Jesus.

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—Jesus Is Our Friend

Fill Your Plate (Craft)

FUN WITH FAITH

BFF Necklace (Craft)

Favorite Feast (Journaling)

Try It Feast (Snack)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

SUPPLIES

paper

crayons

scissors

glue

*CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible
storybook*

*TV and DVD player or
streaming device*

sticky notes

string

*pony beads with and without
letters*

pencils

matzo

different colors of grapes

hard-boiled eggs

salt water

paper plates

forks

cups

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 bread and cup sticker on the Session 5 space.

SAY: In today's story, we will learn about a time when Jesus shared a meal with his friends. Sharing is an important part of building friendships.

Faith Focus—Jesus Is Our Friend

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 1 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 2 & 23).

- Show children the Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is "Jesus is our friend."

ASK: Have you ever been happy because someone shared something with you? Have you ever been excited to share something?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

Fill Your Plate

Supplies: Activity Sheets, paper, crayons, scissors, glue

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Fill Your Plate" (Session 5 Activity Sheet) for each child.

SAY: Today we will create a plate full of great things to share with friends.

- Give each child an activity sheet.
- Have each child draw a plate on a piece of paper. Have the children follow the directions on the activity sheet.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: *CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of the Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-35) from a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: How do you think the disciples were feeling during the last meal they had with Jesus?

Big Faith Video

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

- Watch the Session 5 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, as small groups, or all together.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

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

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: Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He wanted his friends to understand how much he loved all of them.

ASK: Have you ever shared a meal that you remember well? What happened? Who was with you?

SAY: Jesus told his disciples and all of us to remember his last meal with the disciples. Every time we take Communion, we remember that Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend. Jesus invites us to share in the Last Supper to experience God's love in a tangible way.

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

- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

ASK: What do you see on our poster?

- Invite each child to write one way she or he wants to share something with a friend this week. Let the children place their notes on the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

BFF Necklace

Supplies: *string, pony beads with and without letters, scissors*

SAY: Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples as an act of friendship. He cared about his disciples and wanted to share his last meal with the whole group. Even though Jesus was sad and knew that the next few days would be hard, he shared the time with his friends. We can share with our friends too.

- Give every child string and beads.
- Have the children cut the string long enough to be a necklace. Have the children use letter beads to write “BFF” as part of the necklace. Have the children design the rest of the necklace and tie it up.

SAY: You can keep your necklace or share it with a friend.

Favorite Feast

Supplies: *pencils*

Prepare Ahead: *Make copies of the reproducible “Favorite Feast Journal” (Leader Guide—p. 40).*

ASK: What would a feast with your friends look like?

- Give each child a copy of “Favorite Feast Journal” and have the children follow the directions.

Try It Feast

Supplies: *matzo, different colors of grapes, hard-boiled eggs, salt water, paper plates, forks, cups*

SAY: Jesus and the disciples shared together in a meal we call Passover. The Passover meal is a tradition that Jesus' people, the Jewish people, kept in remembrance of God's provision when the Jewish people were slaves in Egypt. Let's try some of the traditional foods for this meal.

- Have the children sit in a circle. Give every child a plate.
- Set out the foods on separate plates and invite the children to taste some of the traditional foods from Passover.

Tip: *Be sure to check for any allergies before serving food.*

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

Supplies: *All-Ages Class Pack*

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.

SAY: Jesus shows us how to be a good friend. Jesus wants us to share with others, even when times are hard.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- One at a time, invite each child to share one hope she or he has for the week.

PRAY: Lord, we know when we share our hopes with you, you listen. We know that you want to share in every moment of our lives. Help us to notice you, to listen to you, to include you, and to invite you into our lives every day. Amen.

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child who hasn't received it yet.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

What do you imagine the best feast with friends would include? You might have feasts for parties, holidays, reunions, or something else. What kinds of food would you have? Where would you meet? Who would be there? Write about it below.



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