Friendship means using your words and actions to show others you care.

WEEK 1 YEARS 3-4

DAY 1

Read Proverbs 13:20

Let's talk about friendship! Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care. Write down the names of a few of your friends.

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Did you know that God has something to say about the friends we choose? Friends can play a big role in the decisions we make. If a friend starts to laugh or say unkind things about someone else, you might join in too. If a friend asks you a question when the teacher is talking, you'll probably be tempted to answer and miss your teacher's instructions.

Wise friends can help you become wiser. Let's choose friends who are kind, helpful, forgiving, encouraging, and patient. When you do, you'll be tempted (in a good way!) to be more kind, helpful, forgiving, encouraging, and patient right back! So, remember, choose your friends carefully.

Spend some time today thanking God for the friends on your list. Ask God to help you be a good friend so that you can help others grow wise too.

DAY 2

Read Proverbs 12:26

Let's pretend it is ice cream day at school. You happily line up, already tasting that creamy cold sugary goodness on your tongue. When you finally get to the front, you spot the last little container of chocolate—your favorite. You grab that cup with the small wooden spoon and smile widely all the way back to your seat.

What do you think is more important? The flavor of ice cream we choose or the friends we choose? Friendships are way more important than ice cream flavors. Why? Because friends have influence. Influence means to have an effect on someone's character, development, or behavior.

We need to choose friend who will be a good influence. That's why it's important to choose friends who will lead us in the right direction. So when you think about your friends, remember how careful you are about the ice cream you choose and be intentional with friendships too!

Spend some time today thanking God for ice cream and friendships! Ask Him to help you choose friends that will lead you in the right direction.

Choose your friends carefully.

DAY 3

Read Proverbs 22:24–25

What happens if you take a bottle or can of soda pop and shake it up before you open it? Yep, better get out of the way! The carbonation inside will cause that soda to spew out the minute you release the pressure by opening the top of that bottle or can!

Do you know anyone who seems to get mad pretty easily? They respond to things almost like that bottle of soda pop. If something happens to shake them up, they might just blow up at all the people around them.

That's why it's important to choose your friends carefully. Because we pick up the behaviors of the people around us, good and bad! Spending time with someone who gets angry easily might mean that you become someone who blows up all the time too.

Write the words of today's verse on a small scrap of paper and tape it around a can or bottle of soda pop in your fridge. When someone in your family decides to drink it, share the verse and talk about why it's important to choose your friends carefully. But don't shake it up first!

Ask God to help you choose friends that aren't easily angered.

DAY 4

Read Proverbs 18:24

Do you know what the word faithful means? Faithful means loyal, constant, and steady. A faithful friend is a friend who sticks by you, a friend who is there when things are awesome and when things are hard.

Do you have a faithful friend? A friend who cheers you up when you're sad? A friend who encourages you when you're down? A friend who makes you laugh when it's the very last thing you want to do?

When it comes to the friends we choose, let's look for friends who stick with us, no matter what. Let's choose friends who are always there, ready to help when we need it most. And remember, to have good friends, you need to a be a good friend. Be a loyal and steady friend who can be counted on too.

Interview a parent or another adult today and ask the following questions:

1. Who is your best friend and why?
2. Read Proverbs 18:24 together. What do you think this verse means?
3. What does it mean to be a faithful friend?

Pray today with the person you interviewed and ask God to help you be a faithful friend and to choose faithful friends too.