

Sunday 9th May: Friends

Junior Church, Younger Group

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you” (John 15: 12)

Gathering prayer – ask your kids to teach you the actions!



From the top of my head to the tips of my toes
From the lobes of my ears to the end of my nose
From my back to my front to my wiggly fingers
God loves me!



Today we're going to think about friends and friendship and love and how Jesus wants to be our friend. Will you be a friend to Jesus?

Can you tell me about a good friend?

What makes them special?

How do you show them you care for them?

Play: Simon Says

Smiling

Holding hands

Wave hello

Can you think of other actions that show we're friends?

Sign:

God the Father First two fingers on top of first two fingers on other hand and tap twice

Love Crossed arms over chest

You Point outward to everyone

Abide Two hands palms down move downwards

Command Move index finger from mouth outwards.

Read: [John 15:9-17](#)

Jesus was talking with his friends. 'I have loved you the way my Father has loved me. Stay close; abide in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love. I have kept my Father's commands and I remain in his love.

I've told you these things so that you may be full of joy: that my joy may be yours. This is my command: love one another in the way I have loved you. Make sacrifices for your friends; no one can love their friends more than by doing this. You are my friends when you do the things I command.

I don't call you servants. Servants don't understand what their master is planning. No, I call you friends because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

Remember, you didn't choose me; I chose you. And I put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that will last. Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. Remember: love one another.'



Glossary

To **abide** to stay, remain; **sacrifice** something given up for someone.

You could read together in your own bible or find it online here

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15&version=NIV>

Create: Paper chain people

Draw, colour, decorate, cut out a chain of paper people.

You can use the template on the last page or draw your own.

You might like to decorate them to look like your friends, or write their names to remind you to pray for them, or write on them what we can do to show love.

Draw and write: 'Roots' colouring and activity sheets

Roots have a collection of resources for families at home. This week's sheets can be found at:

- <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/22507/9-may-activity-sheet.pdf>
- <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/22578/jesus-with-children-bw.jpg>

Question

- What is a command?
- How do you know if you are loved?
- How can you show love to other people?
- How have you been a good friend to someone recently?

Pray: A prayer to use this week

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for loving us when we are happy

Help us to love each other joyfully

Thank you for loving us when we are sad

Help us to bring your love to others when they are sad

Thank you for loving us as your friend

Help us to be loving friends

Amen.

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