



# sisterhood

*wholehearted challenges for kids and parents*



## April - Jesus Is My BEST Friend

As parents, we all want our children to develop healthy friendships. Sometimes, friendships can be hurtful and difficult, as we all know. Turning to Jesus can help us teach our children to form and develop healthy relationships. Jesus Christ is the perfect role model for a friend! We can teach our children how He has the perfect characteristics for being a friend and that He wants to be their friend as well. Here are some ideas, activities, and discussion starters to help your children know what a wonderful friend we have in Christ Jesus!

*included in this packet* \_\_\_\_\_



A prayer to pray with your children



An activity to understand this month's concept



Bible stories and passages to learn about Jesus together



Dear Jesus,

Thank You for being the BEST friend we could ever have. The Bible tells us that there is no greater love we could ever have than to have a friend lay down his life for us. That is exactly what You did when You died on the cross to forgive our sins. Thank You for loving us even before we first loved You and thank You for forgiving our sins. Thank You for calling us friends. It is amazing to know that we are Your friends! Help us to treat You as a friend by encouraging us to talk with You, spend time with You, and honor You with our lives. Thank You for promising to never leave us!

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



For this activity, use the following ABC page (or make your own) to write character traits that Jesus has for us, His friends. Help your children generate a thought for each letter of the alphabet. You can think over this for many days, writing them down as a thought comes to mind. Remind children that they should have many of these characteristics to be a friend to someone, but Jesus is the perfect example, so they may not be able to do all of these, all of the time. Celebrate with your children that the most perfect friend wants to be their friend!

Example:

- A Always close to you
- B Believes in you
- C Celebrates your success
- D Does not leave you
- E Encourages you always
- F Forgives you
- G Gives you what you need
- H Has patience with you

After finishing the alphabet, discuss friendship using these questions.

1. Who is our best friend? Why do you like him/her?
2. Have you ever had a friend who hurt your feelings? What happened? How did you feel?
3. Is it hard to think of Jesus as a friend? Why or why not?
4. How can we grow closer to Jesus as a friend?

*A*

*B*

*C*

*D*

*E*

*F*

*G*

*H*

*I*

*J*

*K*

*L*

*M*

*N*

*O*

*P*

*Q*

*R*

*S*

*T*

*U*

*V*

*W*

*X*

*Y*

*Z*



Talking with your children and spending time with them lets them know how valuable they are to you. Spending some of that precious time discussing how Jesus wants to be their friend is an investment, not only in their relationship with Jesus, but also in their self-worth and their ability to love others. Using these three different sections of the Bible, talk about what Jesus did to be a good friend and the impact it had on those around Him, and still has on us today. You can use picture Bibles or your favorite translation to meet your child where they are in their understanding of the Bible. These discussions can be done over a few days.

### **Zacchaeus** (use the story from a Picture Bible or Luke 19:1-10)

Jesus spent time with Zacchaeus. Even though no one liked Zacchaeus, Jesus spent time with him. After Jesus visited Zacchaeus at his home, Zacchaeus changed his behavior. He stopped living a sinful life and went out of his way to make things right.



### **Mary & Martha** (story from a Picture Bible or John 11:1-44)

Jesus listened to the cries of Mary and Martha. Jesus shared his friends' pain when their brother Lazarus died. Because of His empathy, Mary and Martha saw Jesus as a close friend who cared about their thoughts and feelings.



### **His Disciples** (John 15:1-17)

Jesus talked with His disciples. He did not speak to them as servants, He spoke to them as friends. He shared the secrets of God with them. Because of this, the disciples could share the love and Word of God with the rest of the world.

