

YEAR A | QUARTER 3

11

Arrows of Friendship

Community
We strive to build up God's people.

POWER TEXT

"Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever."' Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town" (1 Samuel 20:42).

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Samuel 20
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chaps. 64, 65, 68, pp. 649-660, 696
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 20-23
- Student story on page 122 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 7, The Nature of Humanity
- No. 3, The Father

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that it is wise to choose Christian friends they can trust and respect.
- **Feel** an appreciation for friendships with other Christians.
- **Respond** by wanting to be the kind of friend that they would like to have.

POWERPOINT

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

David and Jonathan are best friends. They work and play together. David thinks that Jonathan's father, Saul, is trying to kill him. Jonathan and David agree to a plan to find out if this is true. Jonathan tells David the truth. They share the information, talk about what to do, and carry out their plan. Both young men promise loyalty and friendship to each other.

This is a lesson about community.

Because God loved us, we love each other. We encourage and support one another in our common goals as Christians.

Teacher Enrichment

"The Lord be with thee. Out in the field Jonathan bound himself to David by a solemn oath that he would not desert him, regardless of the turn of events. If the news was good, as he hoped it would be, he would not forsake David. On the other hand, if the news was evil, he would notify him of the truth and pray God's blessing on him as he fled for his life. Jonathan had been personally convinced of God's presence with his father when Saul took over the heavy responsibilities of the kingdom. But since meeting David he had been divinely impressed that the Lord had planned a high destiny for David also, which destiny would be accomplished, regardless of Saul's malice toward him. In this attitude Jonathan showed true magnanimity" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 552).

According to Webster, magnanimity means having "loftiness of spirit enabling one to bear trouble calmly, to disdain meanness and pettiness, and to display a noble generosity" (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, eleventh edition).

How have friends blessed my life? For whom am I most grateful? What have I learned about God from the friends He has provided for me?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Trust Me*	items for obstacle course; blindfolds
		B. Unequal	Bible, object that resembles a TV screen
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 117. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, decorated offering box, container/basket, slips of paper, pens/pencils
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	six copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 156)
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, four tall stools (or chairs)
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*The Color of Friendship*	red, blue, yellow, and white stickers or pieces of yarn, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Covenants*	paper, art supplies
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ obstacle course
- ☐ blindfolds

Trust Me

In one section of the room you will set up an obstacle course using chairs, boxes, cones, etc. You will also need cloth/scarves for blindfolds. Students should find partners and work in teams of two. Each team will decide on the theme/story that they will choose for the course of obstacles (i.e., hike through the woods) and name the obstacles according to the theme their team has chosen (i.e., trees, rocks, animals). One partner will put on a blindfold. The other student will guide their blindfolded partner through the obstacles by calling out directions. "Blind" students may not use their hands. If time permits, partners will switch places.

Debriefing

Ask: **What was difficult about being the guide? What was difficult about being the blindfolded person? What did the blindfolded person have to do?** (trust) **How is this like what we have to do with our friends? What did you learn from this activity?** (to trust; it's hard to trust)

Say: **Our point today is that**

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.

Ask: **Why do you think that is?** (Discuss what a "goal" [ambition, purpose] and a "value" [ideals, standards, moral codes] are.) Say: **Let's say together our power text, 1 Samuel 20:42:**

"Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever."' Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town" (1 Samuel 20:42).

Our power point teaches us that

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ object like TV screen

Unequal

Select two volunteers prior to class and tell them that they will role-play a short skit for this activity: They will sit next to each other on two chairs or a sofa (if available) facing the class. One of them will pick up a remote control and stare at a virtual TV set (set up prior to class a cardboard box or appliance that would represent a TV screen) and the other would take up a Bible. The person facing the TV will pretend watching a sports game and he/she would cheer for the players and would call out the score. The student holding the Bible will try to concentrate on his/her silent reading, but would be interrupted and distracted every time the friend commented on the game he/she was watching on TV.

Say to the class: **Here are two friends who are spending a Sabbath afternoon together. Let's observe them carefully.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What were your observations about this activity? What were some obstacles between these two friends? Were they getting along well? How was their communication? Why is it difficult to observe Sabbath with a friend who believes differently than you are? Why is it important whom we choose to be our friend?**

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14 aloud. Ask: **What happens when we choose friends who are not Christians?** Say: **Let's say together our power text, 1 Samuel 20:42:**

"Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever."' Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town" (1 Samuel 20:42).

Say: **From our power point we learn that**

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Friends" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 118)
"Family" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 119)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering box to be decorated

Collect the offering in a box that you decorate (1) with faces of a wide variety of people that you cut from magazines, or (2) picture of a handshake, or (3) some other symbol of friendship and community. (This could be a student project.) You may use this decorated offering box for the rest of the month.

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ container/basket
- ☐ slips of paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Each student can put their name on a piece of paper and add it to a container. Have each student choose a name from the container and commit to praying for their "friend" throughout the week. They can start by praying silently for that friend and his/her special qualities during Sabbath School prayer time. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ six scripts (p. 156)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

(Note: The *Net Kids* are an imaginative way to introduce the Bible story. If you prefer not to use this imaginary element, read over the script yourself and introduce the lesson concept in your own words. Refer to Lesson 2 for background and setup information.)

Make six copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 156 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity.

Present the skit.

Debriefing

Ask: **What would you miss most about your best friend if he or she moved away? Have you ever made a pact with anyone? In what way did Jesus make a pact with us? In what ways is a relationship with Jesus like or unlike a relationship with your best friend?**

Why is it important to have friends whose Best Friend is Jesus? (If we have friends who love Jesus we are going to have common goals and dreams.).

Say: **That's why**

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ four stools (or chairs)

Experiencing the Story

If possible, place four tall stools (or chairs) in front of the room. Choose four students (or older youth) to read the parts of Jonathan, David, Saul, and a narrator (or a teacher narrator) in 1 Samuel 20. Have students follow along in their Bibles. If possible, practice before class so that the reading is done with expression.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who had the same goals and values in this story?** (David and Jonathan) **What was King Saul's goal?** (to keep the throne in His family) **What was Jonathan's goal?** (to be true to his friend, to be honest, to obey God) **What was David's goal?** (to stay alive, to serve God) **Who in this story had the more similar goals and values?** (Jonathan and David)

Say: **As we learned from our power point:**

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Let's read 2 Corinthians 6:14, 16.**

Ask a volunteer to read these verses aloud to the class.

Ask: **What is similar about these verses to what we have just been discussing?** (Saul was starting to choose different goals from David and Jonathan. There was more agreement and harmony between David and Jonathan than between Jonathan and his own father, because Jonathan respected God's choice of David as the next king.)

Say: **Let's remember what our power text, 1 Samuel 20:42, says:**

"Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever."' Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town" (1 Samuel 20:42).

As our power point reminds us:

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.

YOU NEED:
- □ red, blue, yellow, and white stickers OR
- □ red, blue, yellow, and white pieces of yarn
- □ white/chalkboard
- □ markers/chalk

The Color of Friendship

Hand out to each student a colored sticker or a piece of yarn, either red, blue, yellow, or white. Where all can see, write: Red—courage and bravery; Yellow—encouragement; Blue—loyalty and faithfulness; White—honesty and truthfulness. Ask the students to divide into groups by color.

Say: **Being a friend requires many different qualities. Here are the qualities that your group possesses. As a group, create a role-play demonstrating how your group's friendship quality could be used in the following situation.**

Read:

You meet Rob during school vacation, when he and his family attend your church. Rob's family are new Adventist Christians, and your parents invite them to have dinner with your family after church. After that, Rob comes over several times and you and he hang out together. Now that school has begun, you notice that Rob doesn't fit in very well with the rest of the guys. Your friends make several smart remarks about Rob's always being around you. During lunch break you hear them planning to play a not-so-funny joke on him.

Debriefing

After students perform their role-plays, ask: **What would be the hardest thing for you to do in this situation? Why? What if you didn't help Rob?** Say: **Let's say together our power text, 1 Samuel 20:42:**

"Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever."' Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town" (1 Samuel 20:42).

Ask: **How do you think this verse applies to the situation? Now let's read Psalm 136:1. Who is the friend who never lets us down?** (Jesus) Say: **Our power point reminds us that**

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.

4 SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ art supplies

Covenants

Invite students to share if during the past week they talked with one of their friends about common goals and plans they have toward a shared meaningful purpose. Ask: **What are some of your goals and values you share in common with your Christian friends? Did you discuss with your friends what things you could do together that are meaningful? Did any of you think of doing something special for others?**

Say: **A covenant is a written agreement or promise between two or more parties, especially for the performance of some action. David and Jonathan made a covenant. Let's look at it again in 1 Samuel 20:12-16.** (Ask a student to read it.)

Provide paper, art supplies, computer printed contract pages, etc. Ask students to think of another Christian (it does not have to be someone their age) with whom they would like to enter into an agreement of loyalty and friendship.

Ask: **Can you think of another Christian with whom you would like to enter into a promise or covenant?** Say: **The covenant could be a promise you make to a friend to each study your Bible every day. It could be a commitment between you and a parent to be respectful and trusting with each other. In small groups, discuss with whom you will make your covenant and then create two copies of the covenant. You and your friend or family member will each sign both copies, and each keep one.**

Debriefing

Ask: **With whom did you decide to make a covenant?** (Allow several students to share.) **Why did you choose that person?** (Give time for responses. Draw from students the concept of common goals and values.) **How do you think your friend or family member will respond when you ask them to enter into this covenant with you?** Encourage students to report next week on their covenant-signing experiences.

Say: **As we learned from our power point this week:**

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Thank God for the covenant He made with us. Thank Him for the gift of friends who have the same goals and values. Pray that He will bless the covenants that are entered into in His name. Ask God to help you to be friendly with all people, even those with whom you would not enter into a covenant.**

Ask the students to pray silently. Close by praying aloud for the covenants they have made.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **David spares King Saul's life. We choose to treat others with respect in every situation.**

Notes

Student lesson

Arrows of Friendship

Do you have a unique way of communicating with your best friend? Two friends in the Bible did just that a long time ago. Imagine one of them, who later became King David, telling the story to his son Solomon.

Father," 12-year-old Solomon called, "today I had a disagreement with one of my friends."

"I'm sorry to hear that," King David said. "Let me tell you a story."

Solomon always enjoyed his father's stories. He slouched into a comfortable position, ready to listen.

"I had a friend once who was closer to me than any of my seven brothers," David said.

"Oh! You mean Jonathan," Solomon interrupted.

"That's right. I met Jonathan after the battle with Goliath," David answered. "From the very beginning we were good friends.

"I had never lived in a palace," David continued. "There were many things I had to learn. Jonathan helped me with new things that were now a part of my life. But being a friend isn't one-sided, you know."

"What do you mean?" asked Solomon.

"I didn't just want to take from Jonathan," said David. "I wanted to give something to him in return."

"What could you give the son of the king?" laughed Solomon. "You were just a shepherd."

"Well, you're right," agreed David. "But I could still give him the best gift of all—true friendship. We did so many things together. Things were great between Jonathan and me. But his father, King Saul, didn't like me very much. Oh, at first he did. But later he began to feel threatened by me. Saul wasn't allowing God to work in his life. Because of that, he began to distrust many of the people close to him. I was one of those people."

"That must have made it difficult for you to be friends with Jonathan," Solomon said.

"In some ways it did. But real friends don't give up when things get difficult," said David. "We eventually had to be careful. After Saul sent out some of his men to kill me, I knew that Jonathan and I couldn't meet where anyone else could see us."

"What did you do?" asked Solomon.

"I sent a message for Jonathan to meet me. When he arrived, I told him his father was trying to kill me. We made a plan," continued David. "I would hide in the field and wait until I received news from my friend."

"Jonathan and I had agreed that when Saul noticed I was missing from his family celebration, Jonathan would say that he had given me permission to visit my family in Bethlehem, my hometown, for an annual sacrifice. If Saul was fine with that, Jonathan would know I was safe. If Saul got angry, Jonathan would know that I was right and that Saul was trying to kill me."

"What happened?" Solomon stirred, curious.

"Saul was so angry, he threw a spear at his own son, Jonathan.

"But back to our plan." David shifted in his seat, leaning closer to Solomon.

"We agreed that Jonathan, pretending to be target practicing, would come out to the field where I was hiding to inform me of what had taken place at the palace. When he realized how angry his father was, Jonathan came to meet me. After he shot an arrow, he said the secret code we had worked out. Jonathan sent the boy who was with him to pick up the arrow, saying, 'Isn't the arrow beyond you?' Then he shouted to the boy, 'Hurry! Go quickly! Don't stop!' (see 1 Samuel 20:37, 38). This meant that it was not safe for me to return to the palace, because Saul was devising evil against me. Jonathan sent the boy home so we could talk."

"What did Jonathan say?" Solomon wanted to know.

"Jonathan told me that he knew that I was going to be the next king of Israel. He wanted me to promise that if anything happened to him, I would take care of his family. We didn't know when we might see each other again. But we knew that we had promised always to be friends no matter what happened."

"Both of you kept your promise to be each other's friend even if it was difficult to do," Solomon said, deep in thought.

"That's right," David nodded. "When you find a friend who loves and serves God, you work hard to make your relationship last. You treat each other with respect, and you're honest with each other. When the bad times come, you work through them. You don't desert your friend."

"I guess I should work a little harder on my friendship," Solomon admitted.

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Samuel 20
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chaps. 64, 65, 68, pp. 649-660, 696
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 20-23
- Our Beliefs, nos. 14, 7, 3

POWER TEXT

"Jonathan said to David, 'Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, "The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever."' Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town" (1 Samuel 20:42).

POWER POINT

We trust and respect our Christian friends who have the same goals and values.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 88.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:1-4 and this week's story, "Arrows of Friendship."

MAKE Write the power text on a piece of paper that you've designed to look like a legal document. Be sure to include the reference. Memorize it.

PRAY Thank Jesus for being the truest friend to you.

Monday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:5-9.

DESCRIBE In your Bible study journal, describe the problem in your own words. If you were Jonathan, how would you have solved it?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Tell God about your problems. Be sure to say, "God, I turn these over to You. Help me not to worry about them, but to solve them with You."

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:10–23.

NOTICE Notice the words that indicate that God was involved in this plan.

REVIEW Review the power text.

THINK What common goals did Jonathan and David have?

LIST With one of your friends, make a list of common goals the two of you have toward something meaningful and constructive.

PRAY Ask God to show you whether He wants you to accomplish your common goals. Pray that God will help the two of you to work together on a project that will be meaningful for you or others and will bring glory to God.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:24-34.

THINK How could Jonathan have reacted to see his father behave that way?

TALK Talk with a Christian adult you trust about actions or behaviors you have seen that you feel are not right. Do your best to always model the best behavior to others.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you be strong enough to do the right thing in every situation.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:35-40.

REVIEW Review the power text.

WRITE List the names of your best friends in your Bible study journal. Then write a few sentences describing the reasons they are your best friends.

PRAY Thank God for your Christian friends.

Friday

READ Read 1 Samuel 20:41, 42.

WRITE Write a letter to someone thanking them for being a supportive Christian friend to you.

REPEAT Say aloud your power text from memory.

PRAY Ask God to help you to be an honest and thoughtful friend to others, as He is to you.