

YEAR **B** | QUARTER **1**

12

That's All I Ask

Community

Jesus' friendship helps us to be true friends to others.

POWER TEXT

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:12, 13).

KEY REFERENCES

- John 15:12-17
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 73, pp. 662-680
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 65-69
- Student lesson on page 132 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that when they maintain a close friendship with Jesus, they become prepared to be true friends to others.
- **Feel** inspired to extend to others the love they receive from Jesus.
- **Respond** by building friendships rooted in God's love and grace and in their friendship with Jesus.

POWERPOINT

Jesus asks us to love one another the way He loves us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus is our greatest friend. He chose to make the greatest sacrifice possible by dying for our sins. He chose our friendship and He shares His secrets with us. We can respond to His friendship by obeying His command to love others, going out of our way for them the way He has done for us.

This is a lesson about community.

When we maintain a close connection with Jesus and allow His grace to transform our lives, we become better equiped to share His love and grace with those around us. Because Jesus is our friend, we can learn from Him to be more loving and to become true friends to others.

Teacher Enrichment

"Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God. It was to implant this love, to make us children of one family, that the King of glory became one with us. And when His parting words are fulfilled, 'Love one another, as I have loved you' (John 15:12); when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 641).

"His very first injunction when alone with them in the upper chamber was, 'A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.' To the disciples this commandment was new; for they had not loved one another as Christ had loved them. . . . Through His life and death they were to receive a new conception of love. The command to love one another had a new meaning in the light of His self-sacrifice" (*ibid.,* p. 677).

In what way do I most often show my love for others? How willing am I to extend this love to difficult people in my life? How loved do I feel by Jesus?

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. Friendly Handshake*	four or five small coins
		B. Song Search	songbooks, hymnals, musical instruments (optional) OR recordings of songs about friendship; music player
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 127. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, milk OR honey container
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	three copies of the *Net Kids* script (p. 152)
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, paper, pens/pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Best Friends*	white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Circle*	paper, pencils, container
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

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READINESS ACTIVITIES

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

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ four or five small coins

Friendly Handshake

As students come into the classroom, secretly give four or five of them at random a small coin. Ask all students to circulate, shaking hands and saying their names and favorite breakfast food. But first, warn that some people, whose identity you will not reveal, have a coin that they pass on during a third handshake. Anyone who receives a coin during a handshake must pass it on again during the third handshake after they receive it.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you have to do to get a coin?** (shake hands with others; work together/cooperate with other students)
Say: **Jesus wants us to work together in unity with other Christians as we reach out to others and share our hope and faith in God. Let's say together our power text, John 15:12, 13:**

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:12, 13).

Remember our power point:

Jesus asks us to love one another the way He loves us.

(Adapted from *Know Ideas: Serious Fun for Youth Groups* [Warwick, Eng.: CPAS, 1992], p. 5. Used by permission.)

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ songbooks
- ☐ hymnals
- ☐ musical instruments OR recordings of songs
- ☐ CD player

Song Search

Hand out songbooks and/or hymnals to groups of three to four students as they come in. Ask them to search for songs about friendship. Each group chooses a song and plans a mime or hand motions to illustrate the words. They sing the songs or read the lyrics while doing the actions.

Creative option: Bring recordings of songs about friendship as well as about God's love and grace; the students choose the ones for which they want to create actions. They may all choose to do the same song but have different interpretations.

Debriefing

After each group has performed, briefly lead the class in discussing how friendship unites us with one another. Ask: **Why are your friends important to you? What are some things you do for your friends? How do you show that you love and appreciate them? How do your friends treat you? What are some of the things that you expect your friends to do for you? What criteria do you use when you choose your friends? What do you admire and appreciate in your friends? How do you know whom you could trust to be a true friend? How is Jesus a friend to you? What do you do to show you love Him?**
Say: **Today we are learning that we can be the greatest friends to those we love when we extend to them Jesus' love. Let's say together our power text, John 15:12, 13:**

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:12, 13).

Let's say our power point:

Jesus asks us to love one another the way He loves us.

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

"His Banner Over Me Is Love" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 86)
"Friends" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 118)
"Love Is in Your Hand" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 134)

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. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ milk OR honey container

Say: **Good friends love to help others. One way we can help others is by giving our offerings.**

Prayer

Before class, ask a few confident students if they will pray during prayer time. Tell them to listen carefully to your instructions at prayer time to know exactly what to do.

Say: **We are told that we should talk to God as if He were our best friend.**

Ask: **How do we talk to our friends?** (openly, honestly, by phone, by e-mail, in person)

Say: **Get into a position that is comfortable for you.** (Remind the students to do this reverently.) **It could be seated on the floor, leaning against a wall, or sitting like you have a telephone in your hand. _____ (student name) will start, and you may join in as you feel comfortable doing so. I will end.** 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:
- three copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 152)

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 8 for background and setup information.)

Make the appropriate number of copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 152 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 other words do you use for a friend?**

Say: **Today we are going to talk about being friends to others, following Jesus' example, who has been the best friend to us. Remember our power point:**

Jesus asks us to love one another the way He loves us.

YOU NEED:
- Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have student volunteers read John 15:12-17.

Say: **Let's talk about ways we could "give our lives" for a friend today. Have you ever known or heard about anyone other than Jesus who died or gave up their life for someone else? Jesus gave His life for others in a unique way. He died to save an entire world from annihilation. How could we give the gift of life to someone without actually dying?** (leading them to a friendship with Jesus; depending on the circumstances of the area in which you live: donating blood, bone marrow, or a kidney; giving up leisure time to help someone; giving money you were going to use for clothes or a game to someone needy; taking punishment for something a friend has done; paying a debt a friend has incurred)

Let's remember our power point:

Jesus asks us to love one another the way He loves us.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Exploring the Bible

As time permits, assign some or all of the following texts to small groups:

Isaiah 32:2; 2 Timothy 1:16-18; 1 Samuel 20:42; 1 Samuel 18:1-4; Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 27:10; James 2:23.

Say: **What does it mean to be a friend? What does a friend do? Let's look at some Bible texts and find out what they have to say about friendship. After you decide what your verses say about friendship, compare the descriptions of friendship with what you know about Jesus. Appoint a scribe to report your findings to the whole class.**

Give each scribe a chance to explain the points their group made.

Say: **Jesus is our example in all things. Let's repeat together our power text, John 15:12, 13:**

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:12, 13).

Let's say our power point:

Jesus asks us to love one another the way He loves us.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Encourage students who experience difficulty with this activity to work in groups that will offer them assistance in participation. Build on their strengths so that they may feel comfortable engaging and participating.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Best Friends

Ask the class to give you the names of their best friends. As each name is called out, write it on the board. Then ask what characteristic they love most about their friend. As they tell you the individual attributes, write those on the board in a list as well.

Say: **Wow, your friends do and say some pretty amazing things! Seems as though you love your friends very much, and they clearly love you.**

Ask: **Which things on this list are like the way Jesus shows us His love? What would this world be like if everyone acted like everyone else's best friend ALL the time? What can you do this week to treat lots of people in your world the way you treat your best friend?**

Let's remember our power point:

Jesus asks us to love one another the way He loves us.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ container

Circle

Invite students to share with the class if they had the opportunity recently to build friendships with others. Ask: **What did you do to follow Jesus' example and build true friendships? How do you bring your love for Jesus into your friendships with others?**

Sit in a circle with the students. Hand out paper and pencils. Have them write their name at the top of the paper, leaving room for other writing, then fold the paper and place it in a container. Pass the container around. Each student takes one of the names (if they draw their own name, they must draw again).

Say: **Write a sentence of encouragement to the person whose name you drew. When you are finished writing, give the paper to the person you wrote to, whose name is at the top of the paper.**

Debriefing

After everyone has quietly read their message, say: **In encouraging one another, we were giving a little part of ourselves as Jesus encouraged us to do. What are some other ways we can give ourselves to others?**

Say: **Let's say once again our power point once again:**

Jesus asks us to love one another the way He loves us.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Ask God to help each of your students experience a friendship with Him that will strengthen their friendships with others.

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: **Jesus prays for His friends. God's love for us shows us how to love each other.**

Notes

Student lesson

That's All I Ask

"I love to play soccer." "I love mangoes." "I love my dog." "I love my mom." We use "love" in all kinds of ways. But love goes much deeper than really liking a favorite sport or food.

Through His life and death Jesus gave us a perfect example of what true love means.

That Thursday night Jesus knew that the very next day He would die on the cross. The prophecies about His suffering and death would be fulfilled right on time. There was so much He wanted to tell His disciples before all this happened!

Unfortunately, they weren't ready to hear most of it. During the Last Supper, as Jesus was trying to prepare them for His death and teach them about its meaning, the disciples started arguing about which of them was most important! They had a long way to go in becoming like their Master, Jesus.

Jesus wanted Peter, Matthew, Thomas, and all the rest to understand what true love is. But He didn't just tell them. He *showed* them.

Jesus got up from the meal, took off His outer robe, and tied a long towel around His waist. He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' dusty feet.

Usually when people gathered for a dinner, a servant would wash their feet so the guests would feel clean and comfortable. But none of the disciples wanted to do the job of a servant. Instead, Jesus, their Master and Teacher, chose to serve. It was His last chance to show them how deeply He cared for each one of them—even Judas, who was planning to betray Him that very night.

When Jesus finished washing and drying their feet, He said, "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). He wanted His disciples to humbly meet the needs of others rather than bossing people around and trying to show off how great they were.

Later that night, as Jesus and the disciples were walking toward the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus talked more about following His example. "Love one another as I have loved you," Jesus said to them (John 15:12). He had already showed that we don't love by being boastful and selfish. Instead, we love by serving and helping others. But He went on to explain that the greatest kind of love is to give up your life for your friends (see verse 13).

The very next day Jesus would show the world that "greater love" by giving up His life for His disciples and for each one of us. His death became the ultimate example of love and showed us how much God loves every person on earth.

"Love one another," Jesus told His disciples that night before He died (John 13:34). This command was so important that He repeated it four times! It seems like a short, simple request. But it turns out to be the greatest request of all.

You see, Jesus didn't love just His friends. He loved even His enemies! He asked God to forgive those who were nailing Him to the cross. He died for everyone on earth, regardless of whether they accept His salvation or not.

Sometimes loving and serving our friends and family is hard. Loving our enemies is much, much harder! We can look at Jesus' example to see how to do it. But we will never be able to obey Jesus' command without His supernatural help. He has all the power we need to change proud and selfish people into people who truly care about others.

Jesus wants us to be His friends, spending time with Him and learning from Him. "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you," He told His disciples. "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:14, 15).

Jesus doesn't want us to be like servants, blindly following orders just because we have to. Instead, as we get to know Him, we will want to follow His example. We will be happy to give others the same unselfish love that He gives us.

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you," Jesus told the disciples (verse 16). He picked us as His friends so we can "bear fruit" by sharing His love with the world.

And just in case we forget, Jesus said it one more time: "Love one another" (verse 17).

KEY REFERENCES

- John 15:12-17
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 73, pp. 662-680
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 65-69
- Our Beliefs, nos. 9, 10, 14

POWER TEXT

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:12, 13).

POWER POINT

Jesus asks us to love one another the way He loves us.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 89.

Sunday

READ Read John 15:12 and this week's story, "That's All I Ask."

THINK Would Jesus have died if no one except you had accepted His gift of forgiveness and salvation?

REVIEW Review the power text, John 15:12, 13.

PRAY Thank Jesus for dying so that you can live.

Monday

READ Read John 15:13.

THINK Why was Jesus willing to die for you?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write ways you can reflect the love of Jesus to your friends.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank Jesus for calling you His friend and for laying down His life for you.

Tuesday

READ Read John 15:10, 14; Matthew 22:37–40.

SERVE Sabbath is Global Youth Day. Plan to participate in a community service project with other young people from your church. Some examples of how you can contribute include: visiting a nursing home, hospital, orphanage, or prison, to comfort and pray for those who are sick, needy, and destitute. Be creative!

PRAY Ask God to show you how to love others.

Wednesday

READ Read John 15:15.

CREATE Create a friendship symbol, a small simple drawing that reminds you of friendship.

WRITE Write the power text around your friendship symbol and place it where it will be a reminder to you.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you build community by reflecting His love in your relationships with others.

Thursday

READ Read John 15:16.

THINK What does it mean to "bear fruit"? What is the condition for having our prayers answered?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God that He welcomes us as friends and appoints us to be fruitful. Pray for three friends today.

Friday

READ Read John 15:17.

SERVE Tomorrow is Global Youth Day. Plan to participate in a community service project with your Sabbath School and church youth.

SHARE Ask your parents if you can make a fruit salad for a special meal and invite some friends over to share it. After your meal, create a friendship acrostic together. (Think of a word or phrase for each of the letters in the word "friendship.")

REPEAT Say the power text by memory.

PRAY Pray together for one another that you will always be friends with Jesus and with one another.