

5

Finding Friends

Community
We reflect God's love in our relationships.

POWER TEXT

"I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 4:18-22
- John 1:43-51.
- *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 14, pp. 138-143
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 119-125
- student story on page 62 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 12, The Church
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that the gospel can be shared easily in a friendly environment.
- **Feel** the desire to share the gospel with friends.
- **Respond** by telling friends about Jesus.

POWERPOINT

We can share Jesus with friends.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus attracts His first disciples when John the Baptist directs the attention of Andrew and John to Jesus as the Lamb of God. Andrew tells his brother, Peter. When Jesus calls Philip, he immediately calls his best friend, Nathanael. This is how the gospel grows. It's easy to share Jesus with our friends.

This is a lesson about community.

God shares good things with us, and we in turn share good things with the special people in our lives.

Teacher Enrichment

In this lesson Jesus calls His first disciples to follow Him. The word "disciple" is translated from the Greek *mathetes,* which is related to the word *manthano,* which means "a learner," "a pupil," "an adherent." The term "disciple" as used in the New Testament enlarged the relationship of the learner to the teacher as one of companionship. It is used to signify the twelve who followed Jesus closely and became His inner circle. It is also used to signify any person who followed Jesus, a general term for believers. (See *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary,* p. 288.)

Andrew may have been Jesus' first disciple of the twelve who later became His inner circle. *Andrew* is a Greek name. The brother of Simon Peter, Andrew is overshadowed in Scripture by his brother. Andrew came from Bethsaida on the northern shore of Galilee, was a fisherman by trade, and owned a house in Capernaum jointly with his brother. Nothing is known with certainty about his later life and ministry. Tradition asserts that he was once in Scotland and that he was martyred in Greece. (See *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary*, p. 46.)

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 door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Let's Get Excited*	
		B. Best Buddies	blindfolds for half the group of students
		C. Friendly Airmail	paper, pens/pencils
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 57. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	Bibles, chalkboard or whiteboard, markers or chalk
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, photocopies of page 146, pens/pencils
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, whiteboard or chalkboard, markers or chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Here's the Situation*	situation cards from page 147
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*A. Bring Them All*	paper, pens/pencils, whiteboard/chalkboard, markers/chalk
		B. It Is Written	paper, pens/pencils
		C. Point Person	paper arrow, tape or other sticky element, slips of paper
* 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

Let's Get Excited

Divide your students into pairs. Ask them to remember a time they got really excited about something, and share that time with their partner. Ask them to think about how they acted, whom they talked to.

Ask volunteers to share with the whole class their exciting event.

Debriefing

Ask: **What happened when you were excited about something? Why?**

Say: **It's easy to share with others something that we are excited about. Today our lesson is about sharing our excitement as Christians with our friends.**

We can share Jesus with friends.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ blindfolds for half the group of students

Best Buddies

Ask students to form pairs and walk together to the back of the room. One student in each pair will wear a blindfold and the other student will act as a guide. Tell students that the goal is for each pair to advance to the front of the class where their blindfolds could be removed. Students without a blindfold will walk alongside their partners and provide only verbal cues to help their partners avoid any obstacles (i.e., chairs, desks, walls, etc.). They will provide directions using such expressions as: come forward two steps, turn to the right/left, etc. Once the students reach the front of the class, ask them to stay and answer a few debriefing questions.

Debriefing

Ask: **What made it hard for you to move forward if you were wearing a blindfold? Was it easy to trust your partner to help you advance? What was hard in guiding your blindfolded partner? How was this activity like helping our friends in real life? What can friends do to help each other?**

Say: **In our lesson this week we're going to learn how we can help our best friends by pointing them to Jesus. Once they come to know Jesus, their eyes will be open, much like when we remove a blindfold, and they will see the light of Jesus' love.**

We can share Jesus with friends.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Some students who have physical disabilities may not be able to participate in this activity. Have them observe the activity and participate in the debriefing.

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Friendly Airmail

Divide the class into two groups.
Distribute to each student paper and pens/pencils. Give the following instructions:

Say: **Each of you is to write a message in which you share with the other group of students Jesus' love. You will then make a paper airplane out of the paper on which you have written your messages. When you hear the signal, you will line up with your group on one side of the designated line. The other group of students will stand on the other side of the line. When instructed to do so, one of the groups will send their messages across the line by flying their airplanes to the other group. Each student on the receiving side will catch or pick up one of the airplanes and in opening up the paper will read the message it contains.**

The same procedure will be repeated with the other group until everyone has sent their airplane across the line and has received a message from the group on the other side of the line.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when you got a message from the other group? How was sending a friendly message like building a friendship with someone? What message would you send to your very best friend?**

We can share Jesus with friends.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Some students with special needs may work best with a partner.

Prayer and 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

"Salt and Light" (*Praise Time*, no. 43)
"Friends" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 118)
"Side by Side" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 123)
"Oh, Fill It Up" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 135)

Mission

Use *Adventist Mission* magazine for the mission story. You can go to https://am.adventistmission.org/mq-children or go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **Everything we have comes from God. We have the opportunity to share our offerings with people around the world. In this way we can have a part in sharing Jesus all over the world.**

Prayer

Before prayer, ask your students to think of people who have been special friends. Then ask for prayer requests for their friends. Each time, ask a different student to pray. This way you will encourage all students to take a turn and have prayer for their class. Begin prayer today by thanking God for friends. Close by asking for the time and words to share Jesus with these friends.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ whiteboard/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Introducing the Bible Story

Write "Our Top Ten" where all can see. Have the class think of 10 things they know to be true about Jesus that they would like to share with others.

Say: **As Christians we all have reasons we are glad that we met Jesus. Today our lesson is about people who were so glad that they met Jesus they had to share the good news with their best friends. After all, isn't it great to tell others that Jesus calls us friends? The power text today is:**

"I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ photocopies of page 146
- ☐ pens/pencils

Experiencing the Story

Divide the class into small groups. Distribute one "Who? When? Where?" sheet (found on page 146), a pen/pencil, and a Bible to each group. Tell them to read Matthew 4:18-22 and John 1:43-51 and fill in the sheet. Allow time to complete this activity. When the groups are finished, discuss the "whys" of this story with questions such as the following:

- **Why did the disciples leave everything and follow Jesus?** (Responding to Jesus' invitation to become His friends and following Him was worth more to the disciples than the occupation they left behind.)
- **Why did Philip go find his best friend, Nathanael?** (He knew that Nathanael was interested in finding the Messiah.)
- **Why did Nathanael ask "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"** (He knew Nazareth wasn't a very good place.)
- **Why was Jesus impressed with Nathanael?** (Jesus knew he was an honest person; Jesus had seen him.)
- **Why do you think the disciples told others about meeting Jesus?** (They were excited about finding the Messiah and wanted to share this good news.)
- **Why was it easy for Philip to share with Nathanael?** (He knew Nathanael really well; Philip was excited about his encounter with Jesus.)

Accommodation for students with special needs

Use the Bibles with tabs so that students who don't know all the books of the Bible may become independent in handling the Bible.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ whiteboard/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Let's look in the Bible for some different types of people who have been brought to Jesus.** Ask for volunteers to read some, or all, of the following verses as you call out the texts. With the students' help, make a list of the categories of people you discover have been brought to Jesus.

Matthew 4:24	(sick)
Matthew 8:16; 9:18-20, 32	(insane, or demon-possessed, or people the church fails to help)
Luke 5:18, 19; 18:40, 41	(helpless, prisoners, blind)
John 12:20-22	(seekers)
John 1:45, 46	(doubters)
John 8:3	(sinful)
John 11:28	(sorrowing)

Debriefing

Ask: **What type of person was not brought to Jesus?** (Those who didn't have any need; help students to realize the difference between not having any need and feeling as if you have no need—all humans need God whether they realize it or not.)

We can share Jesus with friends.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Use the Bibles with tabs so that students who don't know all the books of the Bible may become independent in handling the Bible.

Here's the Situation

YOU NEED:
- ☐ situation cards (p. 147)

Choose four pairs of students to role-play different situations. Cut out the situation cards located on page 147 of this guide. Distribute them to the pairs of students. Don't let partners see each other's card. Give the students a minute or two to decide how they will portray their character. Then begin the role plays.

As each scene begins, announce to the audience where the situation is taking place and who is in it.

One—classmates doing math homework together.

Two—friends at the mall.

Three—best friends just talking.

Four—soccer teammates at school.

Debriefing

Ask: **Which person had the most difficult time sharing Jesus? What made it difficult? What suggestions would you make to help in any of these situations? Why do we find it hard sometimes to talk about Jesus with others? How can we get over that? What would help us become excited to share Jesus with our friends? Let's review our power text:**

"I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

4

SHARING THE LESSON

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ whiteboard/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Bring Them All

Have a supply of paper, pens/pencils, and the following instructions written where all can see:

Say: **Number from 1 to 10 on a sheet of paper. List names of 10 people who are your friends. Beside each person's name, list one thing you think they most need to know about Jesus.**

Debriefing

Ask: **As you look over your list of 10 friends, who do you see there whom you would not be comfortable bringing to Jesus?** (Give time for thoughtful reflection.) **Why?** (Encourage discussion—referring to responses given during Exploring the Bible.)

We can share Jesus with friends.

Accommodation for students with special needs
Allow students with special needs to work with a partner.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

It Is Written

Distribute paper and pens/pencils. Say: **I would like for you to write out three to five sentences that tell why you're glad that Jesus is your friend, how knowing Him makes a difference for you each day. You may want to include a Bible verse that means a lot to you.**

If you feel it would be helpful, say: **Sharing Jesus with your friends is like sharing your life with your friends. It is telling your friends why you're glad that you know Jesus and the difference knowing Him makes for you. Sharing Jesus with others gives us the opportunity to tell how we have experienced His love, power, and grace in our lives.**

Allow time for your students to do this activity. Ask adult volunteers to offer assistance.

Debriefing

When students have completed their writing, say: **This week, read over your "testimony" several times every day. Memorize it so that you will be able to share it naturally when God prompts you to.**

We can share Jesus with friends.

Accommodation for students with special needs
Allow students with special needs to work with a partner.

Closing

C

Point Person

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper arrow
- ☐ tape or sticky element
- ☐ slips of paper

If time permits, do the following also. Make a large arrow from paper and post it on your classroom wall, pointing up.

Say: **In our Bible lesson today John the Baptist pointed at Jesus and said, "Look, there He is, the One I've been telling you about." John pointed people to Jesus. After Andrew and Philip met Jesus they both had a "point person," a person they wanted to point to Jesus.**

Ask: **Whom would you like to point to Jesus? Think about that person right now. Perhaps it is someone from the list of 10 friends you made earlier.** Distribute small sheets of paper. Have the students write the name of their "point person" on the paper. Tell the students to put the paper with their "point person's" name on the arrow on the wall. Ask them to watch this week for opportunities to point that person to Jesus.

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that God will give your students strength to share Him with their friends, just as He shared Jesus and every other good thing with them. Ask that God will prepare the hearts of friends we have listed to be able to hear the good news about Jesus.

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 guide your children spiritually. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **John was one of Jesus' closest friends. When we pray, we strengthen our friendship with Jesus.**

Student lesson

Finding Friends

When have you been so excited about something you just had to run and tell your best friend? What have you heard about that you really thought your friends ought to hear, too, but weren't sure how to tell them?

As Jesus began to tell people about the kingdom of God He recognized that there were people everywhere eagerly waiting for His messages of hope.

Jesus knew that with a group of close friends, rightly trained to understand His mission, He could reach out to many more people who longed to hear the good news about God's kingdom. These close friends would benefit from Jesus' companionship day by day and would learn from His life of service to others.

So Jesus set out to choose friends who would be willing to leave everything behind and to follow Him.

One day as Jesus was taking a stroll on the shore of Lake Galilee He spotted in the distance two men throwing a fishing net into the lake. Fishing was the means of making a living for most people living in the coastal regions surrounding the Lake of Galilee, commonly called "the Sea of Galilee." As Jesus came closer to them the men continued working together, and Jesus noticed their great team spirit. Jesus approached the two fishermen with visible admiration for their hard work. Just then the two brothers, Peter and Andrew, looked up and their eyes met Jesus' friendly gaze. Recognizing their willing spirit, Jesus said to them: "Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people" (Matthew 4:19). Peter and Andrew understood very well Jesus' words, because they had seen rabbis calling disciples. They immediately recognized in Jesus a religious teacher, though He looked and sounded much different than all the rabbis they had met. Right away they left their fishing nets behind and followed Jesus.

A short distance away Jesus and His new friends spotted three men who were mending their fishing nets in a boat. Peter and Andrew waved and greeted with enthusiasm their fishing companions, James and John. Jesus took notice of how these young men were helping their father, Zebedee, and He knew that James and John would be able to commit to a life of service with Him as well. When Jesus invited them to follow Him, the two brothers showed the first evidence of the lasting devotion they would have to their Master. After saying goodbye to their father, James and John left their family business behind and eagerly followed Jesus.

The next day Jesus came across a man named Philip. Philip was from the same town as Andrew and his brother Simon. "Follow Me," Jesus invited. Again Jesus spent the day making a new friend.

Philip grew excited. As soon as he found an opportunity, he slipped off to find his best friend, Nathanael. He was sure he would find him under the fig tree, praying. Probably praying for the coming of the Messiah. Sure enough, Nathanael was there.

"We have found the One Moses wrote about," he began, trying to catch his breath at the same time. Nathanael looked up quietly. Philip went right on. "And about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Now Nathanael looked skeptical.

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" he asked. The province where Nazareth was located was on the very fringes of the Promised Land. Proper Jews from Judea looked on the area as questionable because of the kinds of people who lived there and the idols some of them worshipped.

The invitation was given, "Come and see." Friendship overcame doubt. Nathanael went with Philip.

As they approached Him, Jesus looked up and said, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

Nathanael was speechless for a moment. He remembered how doubtful he had been. He almost felt as if Jesus had read his thoughts.

"How do You know me?" Nathanael blurted out.

"I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you," Jesus replied.

"Rabbi," Nathanael muttered humbly, "You are the Son of God."

The twinkle appeared in Jesus' eye again. Here was another friend in the making.

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 4:18-22
- John 1:43-51
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 14, pp. 138-143
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 119-125 ("First Disciples")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 12, 11, 14

POWER TEXT

"I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

POWER POINT

We can share Jesus with friends.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 46.

Sunday

READ Read John 15:15 and this week's story, "Finding Friends."

DRAW Draw a large arrow with room in the middle for the power text, John 15:15.

WRITE Write the text in the middle of the arrow and place it where you can begin to learn it.

PRAY Ask God to show you whom He would have you point to Jesus this week.

Monday

READ Read Matthew 4:18–20.

NOTICE In this story Jesus calls two disciples to follow Him and promises to help them become fishers of men.

THINK What do Jesus' words about fishing for people mean to you? How could you share with someone the joy of knowing Jesus personally? Write your answer in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Ask God to show you what your special friendship talents are.

Tuesday

READ Read Matthew 4:21, 22.

THINK James and John left everything, including their occupation and their father, and followed Jesus. What can you do to make sure that your heart is fully devoted to Jesus?

SHARE Do you have brothers or sisters? Share something about Jesus with each family member today. Perhaps you could read a younger child's Sabbath School lesson to them.

PRAY Ask God to help you be a positive influence in your family.

Wednesday

READ Read John 1:43–46.

WALK Imagine that Jesus has called you to follow Him. Take a walk today and pretend you are walking with Jesus. Talk to Him silently about the things you see on your walk. Pray for the friends and neighbors you pass.

SHARE Think of a close friend you can tell about your walk experience.

Thursday

READ Read John 1:47–49.

DECLARE Nathanael declared that Jesus was the Son of God. Have you declared that? In your Bible study journal, write to Jesus what you believe about Him.

PRAY Tell God what you believe about Jesus and ask Him to help your understanding grow.

Friday

READ Read John 1:50, 51.

TALK Talk with an adult about what you have been studying this week. Ask what they think Jesus was trying to tell Nathanael in the verses you read today. Ask what they believe about Jesus, what He means in their lives.

SING With your family, sing a favorite song about Jesus.

PRAY Thank God for reminding you again this week to tell others about Him.