

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME LESSON 1

"TO TELL THE TRUTH"

MAIN FOCUS

We must choose friends who are willing to confront us with the truth

POWER VERSE

*"Don't be fooled...bad company corrupts good character."
- 1 Corinthians 15:33*

BIG IDEA

"A Friend Will Tell The Truth, Even When It's Hard!"

Leader's Info

When choosing our friends, we tend to choose only those who think like us, act like us, and tell us what we want to hear. That's not always the best decision.

King David had a solid relationship with the prophet, Nathan. When King David sinned against God, it was Nathan whom God used to confront David. It wasn't easy. Nathan did so at the risk of his life. But, like a true friend, Nathan was willing to tell the truth to his friend, King David—even if it risked their relationship.

In this lesson, the children will learn that true friends are willing to confront us when we are wrong. We must choose friends and BE friends like Nathan!

★ INTRO VIDEO

"PICK YOUR FRIEND"

★ CHARACTER SKIT

"GIDDY"

★ OFFERING TIME

★ PRAISE SONGS

★ GAME TIME

"UNTANGLE THE WEB"

★ POWER VERSE VIDEO

*"DON'T BE FOOLED...BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD CHARACTER."
- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33*

★ WORSHIP SONGS

★ ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

"TO TELL THE TRUTH"

★ "RAP IT UP" VIDEO

★ REVIEW QUESTIONS

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

ORDER OF SERVICE

1. _____
by _____
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by _____

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CHARACTER SKIT

Character: Giddy *(A bubbly, southern, hyperactive little girl that loves surprising her friends, but the surprises never work out)*

(Play Track #4 off the Music CD—Giddy's theme music)

Giddy: *(Giddy tip-toes onstage, sneaking behind the leader who does not notice her at all. Giddy leans in closely to the leader's ear. She takes a deep breath...)* SURPRIIIIIIIIIIIISSEE!!!!

Leader: OH MY GOODNESS! You scared me so bad! Who are you??

Giddy: *(Giggles)* Soooooo-rrryyyy!! My name's Gillian Godfrey Googolplex the fourth, but you can call me GIDDY! Everybody else does. Didn't you like your SURPRISE?

Leader: What surprise?

Giddy: Oh you KNOW! *(Giddy begins speaking very quickly)* The-one-where-I-snuck-up-behind-you-like-a-cute-little-bunny-went-up-to-your-ear-and-yelled SURPRIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIISSEE!

Leader: Oh, yeah. Actually that --

Giddy: *(interrupts)* And you were all like "Giddy it's so nice to see you!" and I was all "I know it so nice to be here!" And you were all like "You deserve a pony!" And I was all "Oh no, I couldn't." And you were all like "Here have a free pony that can fly and shoot rainbows out of its nostrils" and I was all like "Well I guess one couldn't hurt." So where's my pony?

Leader: Wait, what?

Giddy: My pony, you promised me a pony.

Leader: No I didn't.

Giddy: *(Gasps)* YES YOU DID! It's not nice to lie! Liar Liar, pants on fire! Friends don't lie to each other!

Leader: Giddy you're absolutely right; it's not nice to lie! That's what we're talking about today.

Giddy: OOH, we are?

Leader: You see, we're starting a BRAND NEW series today called "You've Got a Friend In Me!" It's all about different friends in the bible and how we should have friends like them and BE friends like them.

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GAME TIME

"UNTANGLE THE WEB"

Items Needed For Game: none

How To Play: Choose an even number of boys and girls to compete in this crazy game. Have one group form a circle, facing inward, holding hands. Have the other group form a separate circle, facing inward, holding hands.



Have the groups take several steps toward the middle of the circle, until every one is tight and shoulder-to-shoulder. Then, have the groups let go of the hands next to them. Have everyone in each group reach out and grab two DIFFERENT hands than the ones they had before. They can grab hands with ANYONE except those who are directly next to them.

When you say, "GO!", the groups must try to "Untangle The Web" WITHOUT letting go of the hands they are holding. They can climb over, under, or around each other's arms, they just CAN NOT let go. If anyone lets go of an other person's hands, they will be given a ten second penalty.

The first team to "Untangle The Web" first wins!

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME LESSON 1

"TO TELL THE TRUTH"

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

"TO TELL THE TRUTH"

Materials Needed: The Data CD; two paper sacks; a small rock; a small toy prize

Preparation: Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data CD titled "Lesson One," begin with the slide titled "To Tell The Truth"; read **2 Samuel 11,12** and become familiar with all the details of the Bible Story; place the small toy prize in one of the paper sacks and the small rock in the other sack. Close the sacks.



The Message: *(title slide)*

(hold up the two sacks) I need a volunteer to help me make a choice. *(choose a child volunteer; show them the two sacks)* Ok, I have two sacks here. One of them has a prize in it, and the other one has something that is not so great. I need you to make a choice. Choose wisely, though. One sack has something you will really like, the other does not. *(allow the child to choose which sack they want, then reveal what they have chosen)*

Thanks for helping me make the choice. Choices are very important. Today we are beginning a new series called "You've Got A Friend In Me." We are learning about the importance of a very important choice in the life of a Christian—choosing a friend. In this series we are going to learn about some of the best friends in the Bible. It will help us in choosing the right kind of friends AND learning how to BE the right kind of friend.

Today, we begin by looking at a very famous guy in the Bible, King David. You might remember that, when David was a young boy, he killed the giant, Goliath. Many years later, he became the King of Israel. David was a godly man. He loved God and always tried to do what was right.

One day, King David was up on his roof and looked over to a nearby house and saw a very pretty woman. He wanted to know who she was, so he had one of his servant's summon her to his house. King David fell in love with this woman. There was only one problem—the woman was married.

So, King David did something horrible. He found out that the woman's husband was a soldier in his army. King David ordered the woman's husband to go to the front lines of the battle because he knew he would be killed—and he was. King David had this man killed just so he could marry the man's wife.

King David had done a horrible thing—but it was a secret. Nobody knew what he had done—except for God. So, God spoke to one of King David's friends, the prophet named Nathan. God told Nathan what King David had done. Nathan had a decision to make. Would he confront King David? Or would he keep what he found out to himself? If he confronted King David, it might make the King angry.

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YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME LESSON 1

"TO TELL THE TRUTH"

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

But, Nathan knew that if he was any kind of friend to King David, he was going to have to confront him with the truth of what he had done. He couldn't let King David continue in his sin without confessing it to God. Nathan understood something that we also need to understand...

1) Telling The Truth To My Friends Isn't Always Easy (slide)



It isn't easy to confront our friends with the truth—especially when the truth consists of them not doing the right things. If you have a friend who is stealing, it's not easy to tell them the truth of "You shouldn't take things that don't belong to you." If your friend is cheating on a test, it's not easy to tell them the truth of "You shouldn't cheat. You should be honest." Telling the truth to our friends is not easy, but if we are going to be the right kind of friend, we have to be willing to tell our friends the truth when they are doing wrong.

(show pic) So, Nathan goes to King David's court and told him a story. Nathan said, "Once there was a rich man and a poor man who lived in the same town. The rich man had everything he could ever want, but the poor man only had one small lamb of his own. He loved his lamb very much. It grew up with his children, and the poor man cuddled it in his arms. One day, the rich man had a guest arrive at his house for dinner. Rather than killing a lamb from his own flock, the rich man went and took the little lamb from the poor man, killed it, and served it to his guest."



After he heard the story, King David was angry. (show pic) He said, "Whoever did this must be punished!" He didn't realize that Nathan was using this story to represent what David had done. The lamb in the story represented the woman that King David had stolen from this poor man—and then had the man killed so he could marry her.



King David was angry, but now it was time for Nathan to tell him what this story was really about. Nathan looked at King David and said, (show pic) "You are that man! God gave you everything you could ever ask for, and you went and had a man killed so that you could steal his wife from him."



Why would Nathan do this? Why would he tell King David the hard truth about his sinful ways? Was it because he wanted to make the king look bad? Of course not. He loved the king and wanted him to make things right with God. You see...

2) Truth-Telling Should Be Motivated By Love (slide)



When we tell our friends the hard truth about sin in their life, we have to do it because of our love for them, not because we just want to get them in trouble. If we don't speak the truth in love, then we are not acting like a friend. We are acting like an enemy. A true friend tells the truth because they

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YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME LESSON 1

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ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

love their friend and want them to get things right with God.

Nathan spoke the truth to King David because he wanted the king to ask God for forgiveness. And, that is exactly what the king did. King David fell to his knees (**show pic**) and cried out to God, "I have sinned against the Lord!" He confessed his sin to God and made things right.



Nathan is the kind of friend that each one of us needs. We need to choose friends who love us enough to tell us the truth when we are not doing right. We need to choose friends exactly like that. Why is it important to choose friends like Nathan? Because...

3) If I Make Truth-Tellers My Enemy, I Will Never Grow! (slide)



If I choose not to have friends who will tell me the truth when I am doing wrong, then I will never grow stronger in my walk with God. If my friends are not like Nathan—if they refuse to tell me the truth when I am sinning, then I may never get things right with God. That would be terrible, and I would never grow in my relationship with God. I would end up continuing in that sinful habit.

You and I must choose our friends wisely. We all need to choose friends like Nathan, who are willing to tell us the truth when we are doing wrong. In the same way, you and I need to be that kind of Friend. We need to be willing to speak up and tell our friends the truth when they are doing wrong. If we do this, we will be able to honestly tell our friends, "You've got a friend in me."

ALTAR RESPONSE: (play soft music)

Pray with the children that they would be able to choose friends like Nathan. Even more importantly, pray that they will always respond like King David when they are confronted with their own sin by their friends.

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was today's Big Idea?
Answer: *"A Friend Will Tell The Truth, Even When It's Hard!"*
2. What was the name of the hyper girl we met today?
Answer: *Giddy*
3. What did Giddy think she was going to receive from us?
Answer: *a pony*
4. What was the name of the game show on our video?
Answer: *"Pick Your Friend"*
5. What was the name of the prophet in our story?
Answer: *Nathan*
6. In our lesson today, we learned "Telling The Truth To My Friends Isn't Always _____."
Answer: *Easy*
7. In our lesson today, we also learned "Truth-Telling Should Be Motivated By _____."
Answer: *Love*
8. In our lesson today, we also learned, "If I Make Truth-Tellers My Enemy, I Will Never _____."
Answer: *Grow*
9. True or False: We must choose friends who will tell us the truth, no matter what.
Answer: *True*
10. Where was our Power Verse found?
Answer: *Proverbs 27:6*