

“Caring & sharing as part of God’s family”

“Loving our neighbour as we love ourselves” - Luke 10:27



Worship at Home

# Friendship



‘Encourage one another and build each other up’

1 Thessalonians 5.11

We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value of Friendship together.

## *Read together*

Our story is about a man who was paralysed. Being paralysed means that he couldn't walk and probably couldn't use his legs. He would have had to sit or lie down all the time.

Just think for a minute how hard it would be to do things if you couldn't walk around. What kind of games would you play? How easy would it be to make friends?

Jesus reached the town of Capernaum and made his way to a house near the town gate. A crowd quickly gathered around him and people were pushing and squeezing into the small house, wanting to be near him and to touch him.

The excitement was infectious and four **friends** who heard that Jesus was in town decided to take their paralysed **friend** Joshua to meet Jesus as they had heard that Jesus performed miracles and could heal the sick. They carried their **friend** on a mat to the house but as they got nearer the jostling crowds blocked the doorway. They couldn't give up now! There must be a way to see Jesus.

They carried Joshua up to the flat roof of the building and carefully made a hole in the roof. That might sound impossible but houses were built differently then. Most houses had staircases outside to reach the flat roof.

They gently lowered Joshua down through the hole in the roof until he was right in front of Jesus. Imagine how surprised everyone else was but Jesus was smiling kindly at Joshua.

“Take up your bed and walk,” Jesus said.

Slowly and hesitantly, hardly daring to breathe, Joshua stood and took a step forward. He could walk! He could actually walk!

Thank you to Jesus and his **friends**, Joshua’s life was changed forever.


Bible story based on Mark 2. 1-12

## Reflect together

Can you remember a time when you supported your **friend** when they felt alone?

A true **friend** brings out the best in you.  
How might you do this for one of your friends?

## Think together



Good **friends** are like stars. You don’t always see them, but you always know they are there. Anon

## Pray together

### A prayer for good friendship

Let our friendships be strong, O Lord,  
That they may become a blessing to others,  
Let our friendships be open, O lord,  
That they may be a haven for others.  
Let our friendships be gentle, O Lord,  
That they may bring peace to others,  
For Jesus’ sake  
Amen

### Friendship Prayer

Dear God,

Fighting for you and everyone,  
Respecting you at all costs,  
I depend on you always,  
Encouraging us when times are tough,  
Never leave me when I’ve done something wrong  
Depending on you when I’m alone,  
Sorry that I did something wrong to you,  
Helping friends when they’re upset,  
I’m always next to you when times are hard,  
Persevering with you when you get stuck.  
In the name of the Lord

Amen

## Talk together

Talk about **friendship** together as a family.

Learning to be a good friend, someone who can be trusted and is loyal can take a lifetime. Talk about how our friends may be those close by who we see often or those who are far away, and we only see occasionally.

- How do we choose our friends?
- What makes a good friend?
- Are we a good friend to others?

## Activities!

### Friendship bracelets



One special way to show someone that they are a valued friend is to make them a **friendship bracelet** – they resemble a **friendship** which is strong and everlasting. According to tradition, a bracelet is tied onto the wrist of a friend as a symbol of friendship. The bracelet should be worn until it is totally worn out and falls off by itself to honour the hard work and love your **friend** put into making it.

### Raksha Bandhan

In Hindu families, sisters make these bracelets for their brothers as part of the festival Raksha Bandhan. In response the brothers give their sisters a gift promising to help them whenever the need arises and to always protect them.

### Make a friendship bracelet challenge

Why not have a try at making the best friendship bracelet you can by twisting and knotting coloured threads and ribbons together. Thread beads to make your bracelet even more original.

Send a **kindness postcard** to a **friend**, neighbour or to your local care home.

Elderly people in care homes sometimes feel lonely because they miss family and friends.

Brighten someone's day by drawing a picture or writing an encouraging message on a postcard and send it to a care home in your area.

Ask an adult to address it to 'The Residents' and put it in the post. Pray that those who read it will feel loved and valued.

### Just a minute prayer activity

Find somewhere to sit quietly.

Set a timer for 1 minute and silently think about all the people you will connect with today.

Choose one of the people. Think of something that you could do, lasting no longer than 1 minute to make a positive difference to their day. Ideas – call them, write a note, make a drink.) You might like to say a prayer for them too.