



## 2. FRIENDS

### Music

Begin with the songs you sang last week, or a selection of songs which the children know. If you like, introduce some simple **percussion**: empty shampoo bottles with some dried peas, lentils or rice in them make excellent shakers/ maracas. Different quantities of a variety of grains / pulses give a different pitch. A length of dowelling, from a DIY store, about 2cm. in diameter can be cut into lengths of matching pairs. Again, different lengths and diameters will give different pitches. Tap these sticks together to keep the rhythm. Singing is for enjoyment and praise! Have fun!

### Discussion

Who is your best friend? Why do you like him/ her? What is the best thing about him/ her? What do you look for in a friend? At this point, use a flipchart and broad marker pen, or overhead acetate and pen and write down the qualities admired in friends e.g. trustworthy, kind, patient, fair, has the same interests as self etc.

### Pray

Thank you, God, for good friends who we can trust and have fun with. Help us to be good friends to others and not to fight and argue with them. If we do fall out, help us to say sorry and make up again. Amen.

### 😊 Read

Bible story as allocated last week: Luke 5: 17-26

### Mime

This paralysed man had good friends. Discuss how they showed their friendship. Who else is in the story? (Jesus, teachers of the law, crowd)

If you have plenty of Juniors, use the same readers. If you need them to mime, read the passage yourself. Explain that they are going to mime the story as it is read slowly, giving time for action where appropriate. Choose the cast. Everyone can take part – this is good because there is not a critical audience looking on. Let the Juniors use their imagination. There is no need to be elaborate about lowering down the ‘stretcher’. The first time through will be trial and error. Try it again and third time if enthusiasm and time allow.

### Sing

JP 33. Come to Jesus

JP 225. Stand up, clap hands, shout ‘thank you’, Lord

The latter hymn could be sung sitting down for the verses and standing up for the chorus – just like the paralysed man!

### **Discuss**

What did we thank God for in the hymn? (This hymn refers to Lord / Good Lord and not Jesus or God. Be aware of possible confusion of terms and explain if necessary. If children interchange quite happily, leave it at this point.)

### **Teach**

Refer to the list of friendly characteristics again on the paper / acetate. Introduce Jesus as a friend. (If Jesus is completely new as a person to the Group, keep it very simple. For those with more understanding, talk about the faithfulness and love of Jesus as a friend and how we need to talk to Him often to get to know Him better.) Jesus has all the good characteristics of a good friend and He wants to be **our** friend.

### **Sing**

JP 136. Jesus is a friend of mine

(Sing if the Group are ready to be introduced to another hymn, or, sing a song they are familiar with.)

### **Pray**

Very simply, thank God for what you have learned about Jesus as a friend.

## **FOR NEXT WEEK**

Allocate a Bible reader for **Matthew 6: 6-8**.