

LARGE GROUP:

Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)

Today's Bible Story: Have a Little Faith in Me (David and Jonathan) • *1 Samuel 18-20;*
2 Samuel 9 (2 Samuel 4:4)

Today's Bottom Line: Be faithful so others can count on you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6 (NIRV)

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Leader enters, wearing summer accessories: sun hat or visor, sunglasses, Hawaiian shirt, etc.

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

OPENER

Kara: "Heyyyyyy! Welcome back to the best summer EVER at Kidzone! We're 'making waves' here each and every week! Do you remember what it means to 'make waves'?"

"Well, with the help of God's Spirit, we can show things like love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness. We can show God's goodness to others. When we live that way, we can make things BETTER for the people around us, because . . .

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

“What you do today can change the world around you.

We will then guide children to engage in an obstacle course. They will have partners and we will use this to teach children that their behaviors and actions can affect those around them in a good or bad way (“Making waves”).

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

WORSHIP

Kerri: “Our God is so good and so faithful! I love it when we sing songs to worship God together. Let’s sing this song we learned last month called ‘Making Waves.’ Together, we can share God’s love around the world!

Video: “*Making Waves*”

Video (Media Package): *Theme Loop*

“Before we keep singing, let’s watch this video together.

Video (Media Package): *Live Loud Video from Get Reel*

Video (Media Package): *Theme Loop*

“Sometimes when we talk about **[Basic Truth] making the wise choice** or **[Basic Truth] treating others the way we want to be treated**, it can feel a little overwhelming. That’s when we need to remember that we’re not living this life alone! God is always with us. In fact, God is really all we need! As David wrote in Psalm 16:5 (*NirV*), ‘*Lord, you alone are everything I need. You make my life secure.*’ God sent Jesus to be our Savior and our Friend forever. Let’s worship Jesus and tell Him that He’s all we need!

Video (Media Package): “*All I Need*” *Dance Moves Music Video*

“What an awesome truth to sing about. You can have a seat.”

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

BIBLE STORY

SETTING UP THE STORY

Stand behind the table as you begin the story, with the plastic cups and bin full of character beach balls close by.

LEADER: *(Hold up Bible.)* “In the book of First Samuel in the Bible, we can read about two friends named Jonathan and David.

Pull out the Jonathan and David beach balls and place them on cups with the faces facing the audience.

“These two friends couldn’t have grown up more differently. Jonathan was the son of King Saul.

Make a trumpet sound and hold up the Jonathan beach ball.

“Introducing . . . his royal highness, Prince Jonathan!

Set the Jonathan beach ball back on the cup.

“David, on the other hand, was just an ordinary kid from Bethlehem—the youngest of eight brothers.

Hold up the David beach ball and speak as David.

(as David) “Hey, what’s up?

Set the David beach ball back on the cup.

“David was responsible for watching his father’s sheep. He made up songs to play on his harp, and he grew strong defending the sheep from wild animals. But things began to change quickly for David when God sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem.

Pull out the Samuel beach ball and hold it up.

“God wasn’t pleased with King Saul. In fact, God wanted Samuel to choose a new king. When Samuel saw David, God spoke to Samuel and told him that David was the one who would be the new king of Israel.

Place the Samuel beach ball back into the bin.

“When the Israelites faced off in battle against the Philistines, David defeated the giant Goliath.

Pull out the King Saul beach ball, which should have the paper crown attached. Hold the King Saul beach ball along with the David beach ball.

“King Saul was so impressed that he invited David to live in the palace and help lead his army.

(as King Saul) “You, David, must come live in the palace with me and help lead my army!

(as David) “Uh, sure! Sounds good to me.

Set the King Saul and David beach balls down on their cups.

“This is where David and Jonathan met.

Slide the David and Jonathan beach balls closer together on the table.

(as Jonathan) “Hey, I’m Jonathan! King Saul’s son.

(as David) “Um, I’m David. Jesse’s son.”

TWO FRIENDS

LEADER: “Jonathan gave generous gifts to honor his friend David . . . his robe, sword, bow, and belt. As David made the palace his new home, the two young men became best friends—more like brothers.

Slide the David and Jonathan beach balls even closer together.

“King Saul often sent David out with the army.

Hold up the David beach ball and make some silly punching sounds (“Oof! Take that! And that!”).

“David was so successful in battle that King Saul gave him a high rank. David also became extremely popular among the people.

Look out at the audience and cue them to join you as you chant.

“Da-vid! Da-vid! Da-vid!

Set the David beach ball back on the cup.

“In fact, the people loved David so much that King Saul became jealous. Instead of celebrating David’s success, Saul got VERY angry. Several times, he even tried to kill David!

Hold up the King Saul beach ball and have it try to “attack” the David beach ball, bouncing off of it (“Oof! I’ll get you, David!”). Then set the King Saul beach ball back on the cup.

(Reference the Jonathan beach ball.) “Jonathan could have easily become envious of David, too. After

all, as the king's son, Jonathan normally would have been next in line to be king. But instead, Jonathan stayed faithful in his friendship with David. He protected David from harm.

"Jonathan told David . . .

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 19:2-3 (NirV) and read as Jonathan.

"My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be very careful tomorrow morning. Find a place to hide and stay there. My father and I will come and stand in the field where you are hiding. I'll speak to him about you. Then I'll tell you what I find out.

Hold up the Jonathan and King Saul beach balls.

"Jonathan then pleaded with his father, King Saul, not to do anything to harm David. Eventually, Saul agreed. In fact, several times, Saul promised to spare David. But every time, the king broke his promise and plotted to go after David again.

Set the King Saul beach ball down on the cup and pick up the David beach ball.

(as David) "What have I done, Jonathan? Why is the king trying to kill me?"

(as Jonathan) "David, I don't know. But I'll do anything to help you!"

THE PLAN

LEADER: "Together, the friends made a plan.

Set the David and Jonathan beach balls back on the cups, then make whispering sounds.

"Their plan was for David to hide during an important feast. Meanwhile, Jonathan would see how angry King Saul got, because then they'd know whether David could safely come back to the palace. But before they put the plan into action, Jonathan had a special request for David. Check it out. Jonathan said . . .

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 20:14-15 (NirV) and read.

"Always be kind to me, just as the Lord is. Be kind to me as long as I live. Then I won't be killed. And never stop being kind to my family.

"David agreed to the promise, then he went and hid.

Slide the David beach ball far away from Jonathan and turn it around so you can't see the face.

"Meanwhile, Jonathan returned to the palace and the king's feast.

Slide the Jonathan and King Saul beach balls together.

“The king was upset when he noticed that David wasn’t there. Jonathan told his father that David had requested to go see his family, but the king was furious! He accused Jonathan of being on David’s side.

Hold up the Jonathan and King Saul beach balls.

(as King Saul) “You’ll never be king as long as David lives. He must die!

Set Jonathan and King Saul beach balls back on the cups.

“Jonathan’s heart sank. He knew that David would never be safe again as long as King Saul was alive. The next morning, Jonathan took his bow out to the field to shoot some arrows, which was part of the plan he and David had made. A servant came along, too.

Slide the Jonathan beach ball down toward David.

“Jonathan shot an arrow, then yelled out to his servant.

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 20:37-38 (NIRV) and read as Jonathan.

“The arrow went far beyond you, didn’t it? . . . Hurry up! Run fast! Don’t stop!

“David knew this meant that King Saul was still very angry. After the servant left, David slipped out from behind the stone.

Turn David’s beach ball back around so the kids can see the face.

“The friends hugged and wept, knowing they might never see each other again. Jonathan said to David . . .

Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 20:42 (NIRV) and read as Jonathan.

“Go in peace. In the name of the Lord we’ve promised to be friends. We have said, ‘The Lord is a witness between you and me. He’s a witness between your children and my children forever.’

“David left to find a new hiding place.

Slide David even farther down the table and turn the face around, away from the audience.

“And Jonathan returned to the palace.”

Slide Jonathan back to where King Saul is.

FAITHFUL FRIEND

LEADER: “King Saul never stopped chasing David, but Jonathan stayed faithful to his friend. David was deeply saddened when he learned that both Jonathan and Saul had been killed in battle.

Move the Jonathan and Saul beach balls into the plastic bin, removing Saul’s crown in the process. (Do this seriously, not for laughs.)

“Years later, after David became king . . .

Slide the David beach ball back to the middle of the table and put the crown on him.

“. . . he remembered his promise to Jonathan. He asked . . .

Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 9:1 (NirV) and read as David.

“Is anyone left from the royal house of Saul? If there is, I want to be kind to him because of Jonathan.

“David learned that Jonathan had a son, Mephibosheth, who was still alive.

Pull out the Mephibosheth beach ball and set it on a cup.

“But both of his feet were hurt so the young man couldn’t walk.

“David had Mephibosheth brought to the palace. He said to Mephibosheth . . .

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 9:7 (NirV) and read as David.

“Don’t be afraid . . . You can be sure that I will be kind to you because of your father Jonathan. I’ll give back to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul. And I’ll always provide what you need.

(as Mephibosheth) “Thank you! Thank you!”

Video: Bible Story

SLIDE: Theme Loop

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “David faithfully cared for Mephibosheth and his family for the rest of their lives, just as he had promised his friend Jonathan.

Walk in front of the table as you wrap up.

“We can learn something really important from the way David kept his promise to Jonathan.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Be faithful so others can count on you.

“Let’s ask God to help us be faithful so others can count on us.”

SLIDE: Theme Loop

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for the wonderful story of David’s faithfulness to his friend Jonathan. We all want to be the kind of people others can count on. We know we need Your help to be loyal and dependable for our friends and family, so please give us the strength to do that. We are thankful for Your Spirit, God, that helps us remain faithful. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

Hold up the David and Jonathan beach balls from the story.

Kerri: “It’s so cool to look at the strong and faithful friendship that David and Jonathan shared together. These two men stood by each other and looked out for each other. And David kept his word to Jonathan by taking care of Jonathan’s son Mephibosheth, many years later.

“David and Jonathan’s friendship is such a great example for all of us today. It’s a reminder that we should always do this.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Be faithful so others can count on you. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Be faithful so others can count on you.”

LEADER: “Faithfulness is a great way to make waves, because EVERYONE is looking for friends who are faithful. Isn’t that what you look for in a friend—someone who you can always count on? With the help of God’s Spirit, you can be that kind of friend to others! You can **[Basic Truth]** **treat others the way you want to be treated** by being loyal, faithful, and true to your word.

“Maybe that means you’re there to listen when a friend is going through a tough time. Maybe it means you choose to talk **TO** your friends, not **ABOUT** them. It definitely means doing what you’ve said you’ll do and being someone that others can rely on.

“When we put our trust in Jesus, we have God’s Spirit to help us live each day with faithfulness. Let’s head to Small Group so we can talk some more about that together!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop