



LIFE KIDS

Monthly News



SEPTEMBER

2017

Life Church

708 Jake Alexander Blvd.
Salisbury, NC 28147

www.lifechurchnc.com

NURTURE POSITIVE FRIENDSHIPS

POWERSOURCE

ASK JESUS:

1. To guide your children into positive, productive friendships.
2. To show your family members how to love and befriend one another.
3. To give your kids the strength to stand up and speak out against bullying.

For many children, a highlight of back-to-school season is reuniting with old friends and making new ones. Friends are vital to emotional and social development. Through friendships, kids learn to relate, respect, share, make decisions, and set boundaries. Having friends also boosts self-esteem by making children feel supported.

Unfortunately, peer conflicts, mistreatment, and even bullying occur even among young children. The National Education Association says 160,000 kids miss school each day because they're afraid of bullying, attacks, or intimidation. The example you set at home can help children develop kindness, love, and respect while maintaining a healthy sense of self

Show selfless love. Help children make the connection between how Jesus loves and cares for us and how he wants us to love and care for one another. Make the Golden Rule a priority in your home (Matthew 7:12).

Agree to disagree. Children need to hear that it's okay to have different opinions; after all, God made us each different. But it's never okay to hurt or mock someone with words or actions.

Know everyone matters. Focus on activities and behavior standards that are positive, fun, and rewarding in order to help children find the acceptance and recognition they seek. Guiding kids toward loving themselves is key to helping them love other people.

Read on for more friend-focused ideas!



GROW AS FAITHFUL FRIENDS

As children grow and change, so do their friendships and interactions:

Ages 2 to 4: Young children depend on others to help them develop social skills. Schedule playdates and use praise to reinforce good behavior such as sharing. Help children refine their negotiation skills to resolve conflicts. Give them ideas about what to say to playmates.

Ages 5 to 8: Kids this age are learning to choose their friends. Their self-image is strongly related to other people's opinions of them. To help a bully, emphasize respect and model how to handle conflict without anger.

Ages 9 to 12: Parental authority diminishes, and kids want to be with their friends more. Discuss the qualities of a good friend and the down side of cliques and gangs.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Supportive Friends

Set out two piles of index cards (six cards per pile), a bag of popcorn, and a bag of sugar cubes. Say: **Let's create two six-story buildings. One will have layers of popcorn between the floors, and the other will have layers of sugar cubes between the floors. Ready? Go!** (Allow time.)

Ask: **Which building was easier to build? Which do you think will stand stronger and sturdier? Why?**

Read aloud Luke 10:25-37. Ask: **In what ways did the Samaritan support the hurt man?**

Say: **If we don't support our friends, those friendships may tumble.** Have family members blow on the popcorn tower to tumble it. **But when we support our friends with kindness, understanding, and love, we know our friendships will stand strong.** Let everyone blow on the sugar cube tower, which should remain standing.

Close in prayer. Thank Jesus for friends and ask for help to support them.

Good Reflections Let babies and toddlers see themselves and their playmates in mirrors. Point to reflections and say names so kids can attach names to others.

Stick With Love Buy stickers with messages about friendship, and let children pass them out to friends. Read 2 John 5-6 and talk about what it means to love our friends.

Nice to Meet You! Sit in a circle with family members and practice "introducing" yourselves as if you were meeting new friends. Read aloud Acts 2:42-44 and explain that the first Christians gathered to share about Jesus and their lives. Ask: "What are some ways to get to know somebody new? Why is it easier to be a Christian when you have good friends who are trying to follow Jesus too?"

Friends Rock! Play Rock, Paper, Scissors. After each round, the winner reveals a favorite thing (food, TV show, and so on). Then ask: "Which was more fun: telling something about yourself or learning about the other person? Why is it important to learn the likes and dislikes of our friends? Why does Jesus want us to care about our friends?" Read aloud Philippians 2:4. Say: "To be a true

friend, we must know what makes our friends happy. The more we know about someone, the easier it is to offer friendship and support."

Our Forever Friend Read aloud John 15:15 and talk about what it means that Jesus is our friend. Discuss ways Jesus has helped you and how he shows us to be friends to others.

All Are Invited! When kids feel left out or are excluded from a party, talk about how life isn't always fair or equal. Read aloud Luke 14:7-14 and discuss ways to include people and not exclude.

Friendship Is a Gift Together, make crafts such as friendship bracelets that children can give to their friends. Read aloud Acts 20:35 and discuss how giving is a key—and fun—part of friendships.

Friendship Chain Have family members stand in a line. Give the first person a roll of crepe paper. People will take turns threading the paper around their head, across their chest, and around both legs. If the paper breaks before you're all connected, start again! Then discuss how families are connected as friends.

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command."

—John 15:13-14

STAR VOYAGER



Series Overview

On this voyage through outer space, we'll learn our true identities as we discover exactly who God says we are.

Memory Verse

"We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

ELEMENTARY

Week	Need to Know	Bible Story
1	I Am Made By God	Creation & David's Psalm <i>Genesis 1 & Psalm 139</i>
2	I Am Accepted	Zacchaeus <i>Luke 19:1-20 & Romans 15:7</i>
3	I Am Forgiven	The Prodigal Son <i>Luke 15:11-32 & Colossians 1:13-14</i>
4	I Am Changed	The Woman at the Well <i>John 4</i>
5	I Am Victorious	Daniel <i>Daniel 6</i>
6	I Am Made for a Purpose	Jeremiah <i>Jeremiah 29</i>

PRESCHOOL

Week	Need to Know	Bible Story
1	God Made Me	Creation <i>Genesis 1-2</i>
2		
3		
4	God Loves Me	The Lost Son <i>Luke 15:11-24</i>
5		
6		

TWEEN LIFE

We are starting a new event for our 4th and 5th graders called TweenLife. It will be on the third Sunday of every month from 4:30-6:30pm at the church. We hope all of our 4th and 5th graders will join us for an evening of food, games, worship, and a short devotional. Our first TweenLife will be on **Sunday, September 17th**.

LOOKING AHEAD

We have several exciting events in the upcoming months we wanted to make you aware of so you can mark your calendars!

Our annual Fall Fest will be **Sunday, Oct. 29th** at the YMCA.

On **Friday, Dec. 1** we will have a family Christmas event at the church.

Be on the lookout for more details about both of the events in the upcoming weeks and months.

GIVING

We are going to continue to collect school supplies throughout the month of September.



September



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Star Voyager Week 2	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 Star Voyager Week 3 Grandparents Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Star Voyager Week 4 Tween Life 4:30 – 6:30	18	19	20	21	22 Fall Begins	23
24 Star Voyager Week 5	25	26	27	28	29	30

For more information about LifeKids contact Katie Efird at Katie@lifechurchnc.com or Kristine Miller at Kristine@lifechurchnc.com

Keep up to date with all the LifeKids happenings by liking us on Facebook @lifekidsnc or visiting www.lifechurchnc.com/connect/children