

SABBATH SCHOOL

Level 5 • Unit 2 • Week 2

GOD WANTS US TO BE FRIENDS

OBJECTIVE:

To show that a divine God relates to His creation and desires a relationship with His creation, mankind.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Ask: If your grandfather or a friend lived in another state, how would you communicate with him or her? (Talk on the phone.)

How can you communicate with God? (Prayer, Bible study.)

What do you talk about with your grandfather or your friend? (What you are interested in, for example, fishing, hobbies, family, fun, etc.)

What would you talk about with God? (What you are thankful for. Things that you need, worries, blessings.)

BIBLE LESSON:

Read: Exodus 33:9-11, 12-17. Notice how God deals with Moses as a friend.

Ask: How do friends speak to each other? (Daily, respectfully, kindly, cheerfully, trustingly, etc.)

Say: God wants a relationship with us. He wants us to talk with Him.

Jesus had a good relationship with His disciples—those men and women who followed Him and kept His teachings.

Ask: Do you think Jesus thought of His disciples as friends or servants?

Read: Mark 4:35-41.

Ask: Does this story show that Jesus cared for His disciples?

Read: Luke 5:1-8.

Ask: Does this show that Jesus wants to bless us?

Read: John 15:13-14.

Ask: Do you think God would ever call anyone His friend?

Read: James 2:23.

Ask: Doesn't this show that God wants us to be like friends and not slaves?

Do you think God will ever want to dwell with mankind?

Read: Revelation 21:1-5.

Ask: Don't you have to like someone in order to want to live with them?

What are some of the character traits God wants to see us have? (Obedience, mercy, love, forgiveness, courage, etc.)

LESSON APPLICATION:

Recalling the story of the fish in Luke 5, have students cut out paper fish and write on the fish ways God has blessed them. Have each child "catch" one and read it aloud.

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

family activity

THE POINT:

To show that God wants to have a relationship with mankind, not just be a distant Creator.

ASK ME...

- How do we know God wants to know us and be our friends?
- How do we talk with God? (prayer)
- What biblical character was called a friend of God? (Abraham)
- Did Jesus have any friends? (He called His disciples friends.)
- What are some qualities or characteristics of friends?

MEMORY VERSE:

John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."