

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 5 • Week 1

CHRIST AS A FRIEND

OBJECTIVE:

To show us that Jesus Christ is truly our friend.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: Think very hard about your very best friends.

Ask: Are these people you would trust with your life?

Ask: Would these friends always be there for you—even if you were in trouble?

Say: Some people we think of as friends don't always prove to be good friends.

Ask: Would your "best friend" give his or her life for you?

Say: Our story today is about the best friend you could ever. That friend is Jesus!

BIBLE LESSON:

"Jesus as a Friend" (John 10:15-18; 15:12-17; Matthew 14:13-21; Matthew 8:1-3).

Ask: Do you know why Jesus is the best friend you could ever have?

Say: Jesus loved each of us so much that He gave His life so that we could live. Jesus was a kind and loving man. He was a Jew of about normal height—He wasn't too tall or too short. Since Jesus was a carpenter—someone who builds things—He was a very strong man. We do not know what color His hair was because Jewish people could have dark hair, red hair or blond hair. It's really not important what Christ looked like. What Jesus taught us about keeping God's laws and how to treat other people is what is really important.

Ask: Can you tell me how Jesus wants us to treat everyone we know?

Ask: Are we to treat strangers the same way?

Say: Jesus did many things that showed that He had great love for all people.

Say: Once when Jesus was speaking out in the open, about 5,000 people came to hear Him. When He was through speaking, He had pity on the multitude because they were hungry. He wanted His disciples to feed the five thousand people. However, there were only two fish and five loaves of bread.

Ask: Do you think there was enough food for all those people?

Say: Jesus blessed the fish and the bread and broke them into baskets. After all the people had eaten until they were full, there were still baskets of fish and bread left. Jesus had performed a miracle. He often performed miracles as He traveled throughout the land. He always said that His power to perform these miracles came from God above, His Father.

Jesus loved little children. He would have them brought to Him, then He would bless them asking God to protect them. We do this at church after the Feast each year. You may have been blessed when you were very little.

Wherever Jesus traveled people who were sick or crippled would come to Him and He would heal them. Most of these people were strangers to Him. Using miracles to cure them, He showed how much He loved them and that He was a friend to all. One day as Jesus and some other people were walking along, a man who had leprosy called out to Him. This man was called a leper. Leprosy is a terrible disease that rots the flesh off a person's body. It was very contagious. People wanted nothing to do with lepers because they were afraid of catching the disease themselves. Lepers died from this awful disease and they were felt to be unclean.

Ask: What do you think happened when this leper approached Christ?

Say: Most of the people who were around Christ probably ran away from Him. The leper asked Jesus to heal him and make him clean again. Those who were still watching were shocked to see Jesus reach out and actually touch this unclean man. Instantly, the sores and rotting flesh were healed and the man was once again clean.

Say: Jesus was a true friend to everyone and He said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

Ask: Do you know whom Jesus calls His sheep?

Say: We are His sheep—He tends to and cares for us just as a shepherd does for his sheep.

Say: Jesus gave us a good example about being a true friend. A friend never hurts his friends, a friend takes care of his friends and a friend always helps his friends, as long as it isn't breaking God's law to do so. We can follow Christ's example by helping people. This is especially favorable in God's sight when we sacrifice the time we would want to do something else.

Ask: Can you think of something your friends might do that would keep you from helping them?

Say: You should never help a friend by getting drugs for him or by helping him steal etc. You should never do something wrong as this is breaking God's law. You wouldn't be helping your friend if you helped him break God's law.

Say: Today, you have learned that Jesus is your best friend. He fed strangers He didn't even know. He healed lepers and did not fear catching their disease. He will do the same for you. Always remember—Jesus is alive today and is always there for you. All you have to do is ask Him. He is your friend forever!

LESSON APPLICATION:

Fish and Loaf Activity:

1. Give each student a fish and loaf activity sheet (see end of lesson).
2. Cut out the fish and loaf.
3. Cut along dotted lines, being careful not to cut all the way through. The fish and bread expand by cutting the dotted lines.
4. Give each student an extra, blank sheet of paper.
5. Have students draw their favorite food and add dotted lines (like the fish and loaf). They can cut and "expand" that.

MUSIC:

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

MEMORY VERSE:

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

family activity

THE POINT:

Jesus Christ is truly our friend. We talked about the miracle of Christ expanding the amount of fish and loaves in order to feed five thousand people, strangers whom He did not know. Beside that, we learned how Jesus healed lepers of one of the most contagious diseases of that day.

ASK ME...

How did Jesus show He was a friend to the 5,000 people who were hungry?

How did Jesus show He was a friend of the leper?

What is the greatest way of showing another person that you love them?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss how we can “lay down our life” for another person, without literally dying for that person. Talk about how when we take time out to do something for someone in need, we are giving part of our life to them, especially when we have to sacrifice what we want to do.

Find the name of a person on the church prayer list who is sick—a person your child doesn’t know. Have him/her buy or make a get-well card and send it to that individual. Writing some personal notes on the card, will give the recipient extra encouragement.

Ask your child to help you prepare a food basket for a family who has a sick member. Make sure they are with you when you take it to the people.

Prepare a used clothing box for those in need or a worthy cause.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

FISH AND LOAF ACTIVITY

