

FRIENDSHIP

Aim of the assembly:

Friends are a great gift to all of us. Having a good friend is one of life's great pleasures. We want to focus on two aspects of friendship:

- Friends DO SOMETHING for each other!
- Friends stick with each other through good and bad times.

Thinking about Jesus: Jesus is God's Son but he is also a special friend who helps us when we need help. And he sticks with us through good and bad times!

Props needed

INTRO: Make good size letters on cardboard to spell FRIENDSHIP. Attach a big paperclip or bent piece of wire to the back of each letter, so the letters can be hung individually onto the puppet screen.

Buzz lightyear toy or some other toy which would be precious to a child of your audience age.

BIBLE STORY: Puppet screen, small table, blanket, cooking pot and wooden spoon, Children's Bible, dustpan and brush, small blanket and little pillow. Full size puppet with legs. Make up a stretcher from a small sheet and two broom sticks.

Intro

(Hang the letters for FRIENDSHIP onto the puppet screen but jumble them up: HIPSDRIENF

Wendy, I have found a great way to tell everyone what our theme is... I have written it down on the board. Look here....tadaa...here is the theme for today... HISPDRIFEN! "Hipsdrienf"? That is not what the assembly is about! Oh dear, I think we have a problem, Wendy could you help?(word is spelled wrong and Wendy helps to get it right) Thank you Wendy, you are such a good friend. Whenever I need your help, you are there for me! (Talking to the audience...I will go and look for a nice present for Wendy, something to make her happy and to thank her for being a good friend...) Off to get her a little present...which is sharing my Buzz light year with her for the rest of the week.

Bible story

And do you know what, I want to share something with you too. I know a Bible story about friends. Shall I read it to you, Bob?

Read out **Mark 2, 1-5&10-12**

Bob: How is that about friends? I think we shall need to act it out to see.

Wendy: We shall need some volunteers for this story. Actually we need four people to help – recruit volunteers. The stand to the side with Wendy and will be called up one by one to perform a specific task which show how they help their friend Frazer – the puppet.)

(Stage set for Bible story: Table in front of you, puppet screen to the side with props and Frazer the puppet. Bob acts as the narrator, Wendy helps children to take part in the drama)

Bob: This is Frazer, he can be the sick man...we put him up here on the table (Treat Frazer really gently as if he was real.)

(Job for 1st child) Could someone come and put a pillow under his head and cover him up a bit?

(Job for 2nd child) ...And he can't do his housework now, could someone come to do a bit of dusting for him?...

(Job for 3rd child) He looks hungry, could someone make a meal for him?

(Job for 4th child) ... And he is very bored, perhaps someone could read a nice book to him. Look, I have got one with stories about Jesus...

Bob: So there was Frazer, who was not well, that was really sad...(Everyone show that they are sad for Frazer) but the good news was that he had good friends who stuck with him (Everyone show that they are glad that he has got good friends), he could really count on them. They showed him they cared! So these friends kept on looking after Frazer and kept showing him that they were his good friends. One day while they were at his house helping, Wendy came in from the village with exciting news...

Wendy: (Comes in very excited with good news)...Jesus is in town...we need to take him to Jesus...

(Children take the stretcher and Frazer is very carefully transferred to the stretcher. They then follow Wendy on a little walk around the room)

Bob: (Move puppet stage, so that it sits behind the table.This can be done while the children are on their little walk around the village. Children will lift Frazer over the puppet stage onto the table) When they got to the house where Jesus was, there was such a crowd, they could not possibly get

in. So they climbed up on the roof and made a hole... and then they brought their friend down through the hole right in front of Jesus.

Bob: And Jesus said to him: "My son, your sins are forgiven." And he said, "Stand up, pick up your mat and go home." And Frazer did!!! Everyone was very happy!!! Shall we do a big shout of "Jippieh!" together! Frazer and his friends went off to have a big party! And Frazer never forgot that day all they days of his life!

(Thank the actors. Remove Frazer and props from sight)

Sum up talk

What does this story tell us about friends?

They were **kind and loyal** (Written on banner, which is the back of the stretcher...fits on the puppet stage to display) Wendy to explain the words.

1. When their friend needed them, they came to help
2. They stuck with him ... and it was not all fun
3. They showed their care in practical ways

Got a perfect song for Frazer: "Count on me" by Bruno Mars

Can your friends count on you?

How can you show them today that you care?

Second song: Nothing's too big, big, big for his power

We do big and little things for our friends, and God is interested in big and little things in our lives too. And we can talk to him as we would to a friend, shall we pray together...

Prayer: Thank you for our friends, help us to be good friends who are kind and loyal.