

Bible background

1 Samuel 18:1-4

Aim of lesson

To teach that God is pleased when we learn to be a good friend.

Preparation required

A bag of small sweets, enough for two for each child will be required for this lesson. You will also need to memorise the rhyme.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. You could use the song 'O Goliath' to revise last week's lesson if you wish. Talk about Jonathan's feeling when he saw what David had done.
2. Describe Jonathan's friendship and gifts and of his always being David's friend. He was never 'out of friends' even when he could have been jealous of David's popularity. He stayed a true friend. Later he knew that God had chosen David and not him, the king's son, to be the next king, but he was not angry, he was glad for David.
3. Use the activity sheet to reinforce Jonathan's kindness to his friend, and to start them thinking about being kind to their friends.
4. Teach the class the rhyme and have them join in while you say it to each member of the class as you offer them a sweet. Make sure you get a 'yes, please' and 'thank you' each time. Then have each child, in turn, stand up and say the rhyme, holding the bag and offering a sweet to the next child on the left. The bag should then be given to the next child on the right and a sweet offered to the child who has just spoken.

Alternative activities

1. Mark out a frame around a piece of card or thick paper. Ask the children to draw a picture of themselves with their best friend(s) inside the frame. Stick on coloured or shiny paper or print a pattern to decorate the frame.
2. Help each child to make a thank you for being my friend card.

Relevance to the children's lives

Encourage the class to be good friends and to share.

Prayer

Ask what prayer David might have prayed to thank God for his good friend. Ask the children who are the friends they would like to thank God for.

Verse

'A friend loves at all times.' Proverbs 17:17.

Rhyme

God has given me all I have
The clothes I wear, the food I eat
He's happy when we learn to share
So, would you like a sweet?