

QUICK GUIDE: SESSION 34 - LET'S STAY FRIENDS

Calendar Event: International Day of Friendship (30th July)

*Goals: Celebrate God's Friendship and how we can stay Friends Forever in Heaven!
Celebrate our Friends on Earth and learn how to stay Friends in the Future!*

BIBLE STORY: REVELATION 22

1. Recap the story so far – God created us and sent Jesus to Earth to help everyone be friends with Him again. Jesus loves us and now He's in Heaven with Daddy God, and He sent the Holy Spirit to us. Now anyone can choose to be in God's family, and there are as many people as the grains of sand at the seaside!
2. For today's story, when you hear the word '**FRIEND**', give a friend a high 5 or hug!
3. This story is at the end of the Bible, but throughout the whole Bible, God desperately wanted to be '**FRIENDS**' with everyone!
4. One of God's '**FRIENDS**' was an old man called John, who God gave a very special dream.
5. John saw an angel!
6. Then the angel showed John a special river called the River of Life. At the end of the river was a throne for King Jesus and Daddy God to share!
7. Next up, the angel showed John 2 trees with special leaves. The leaves showed how God was going to make all His '**FRIENDS**' better.
8. This dream was about Heaven, where there will be no sickness and no tears!
9. Right at the end of the Bible, Jesus said one last thing: "COME!"
10. The Holy Spirit is inviting everyone to come and be His '**FRIEND**' forever in Heaven at the end of our life, cos He loves us so much and wants to stay '**FRIENDS**'! Heaven is going to be a big party!

CRAFT: FRIENDLY JEWELLERY

You will need: Wool, tube pasta, food dye, scissors, sandwich bags, hand sanitiser, newspaper.

1. Beforehand, colour the pasta by putting it and a few drops of hand sanitiser into a bag. Add food dye, then shake the bag until the colour has mixed. Pour the pasta out to dry.
2. On the day, children can choose pasta tubes to thread onto wool.
3. Children can give the bracelet to a **friend** (making sure it is tied securely), and say thanks for being their **friend**!
4. We'll find out about a special **friend** in our Bible Buds story.



PLAY: FRIENDS FOREVER

You will need: Picnic blankets, cushions, toy food, teddies, heart cushions/soft toys, toy plates/cutlery, books about **friendship**.

1. Children can have a picnic with teddies and **friends**!
2. Encourage children to be kind **friends**, by giving hugs and sharing food out, counting how much food each **friend** has.
3. Read stories about **friendship** with others and with God.
4. We'll find out about our forever **friend** in the Bible Buds story!



Daddy God, thank you for the fun today. Thank you for parents and carers. Thanks for our friends and for being our Heavenly friend who we can stay friends with forever! Amen!

“conversation starters”

Conversation starters for the grown-ups!

- » **Testimony:** Share a time when you’ve experienced God’s **friendship**, giving examples of when He’s forgiven you and stuck by you. Perhaps God’s **friendship** has helped you to be a better **friend**?
- » **Question:** What makes a good **friend**?
- » **Chat:** Talk about any broken **friendships** and how forgiveness can bring freedom. Perhaps some find it hard making **friends**. Be sure to include everyone in **friendly** chats.
- » **Activity:** Encourage the team and parents/carers to get their diaries out and plan some playdates for over the summer holidays! As a toddler group, you could plan some socials, too, so families can stay **friends** over the summer, as well as saying goodbye to children or families moving on.



Home Ideas

Enjoy the sunshine and go on picnics or for BBQs with **friends**! Perhaps the church your toddler group runs at is hosting some summer events or holiday clubs that you and some **friends** could go along to? Basically, have fun spending time with **friends**!

As it’s summer, enjoy being outside with **friends** and have some fun playing with water using a paddling pool or sprinkler! You could even enjoy sliding on a water slide, pretending you are having a dream, like John, and are sliding on the River of Life in Heaven!

Mission Opportunities

Try to book in some playdates with **friends** from your toddler group. The summer’s a great opportunity to keep in touch with **friends**, get to know them and spend time together in a more leisurely fashion! It can also be a very long time without any groups running or without any **friends** to hang out with, so be sure to look out for each other, and share God’s love.

God loves it when we pray! Create a rhythm of praying for your **friends** this summer, e.g., make a prayer box and then pick a name out each day/week. Or put up a different photo of **friends** each day/week to pray for. Or every time you eat an ice cream over the summer, pray for a different family.

Have an open invite for attendees to do lunch after the session. Remember to share and declare God’s love!