

HEY, HI, HELLO

God Gives Me Friends

November 17

I am Made for Community Kindergarten - 5th grade

Leader Notes

Bible Passage: Paul Gave Hope- Philippians 4

Bottom Line: I can cheer on my friends.

Leader Context: As we continue in our series on community, we will teach kids that they can cheer on their friends. In the book of Philippians, Paul wrote to encourage Jesus' followers in how they lived in community. This included cheering on and encouraging the good and honorable attributes they noticed in each other. Being connected in community means we can cheer on and encourage our friends.

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

Social

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page Blank paper (1 per child), Markers or crayons (several), Timer or stopwatch (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

Paul knew things could happen that make life difficult. He knew following Jesus wouldn't always be easy. That's still true for us today. Sometimes you or your friends might get discouraged or want to give up because things are hard. But you can remember something amazing! You can cheer on your friends! What can you do? Everyone, say "I can cheer on my friends!" (*I can cheer on my friends!*)

Remembering the good things of God encourages us. We can share those good things with our friends when they are going through something difficult. When we cheer on our friends, we are celebrating and helping others in our community the way God made us to live.

Let's pray together. Remember prayer is listening and talking to God.

God, thank You that You made us for community. Thank You for showing us that we can help each other by encouraging one another! Help us to watch for ways to get connected and cheer for our friends. We love you! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Videos

Try a New Thing (20 minutes)

Big Goal: Learn that when friends cheer us on, it can help us follow God.

Supplies: Dice (1 per group), Plastic cup (1 per group), Table tennis ball (1 per group), Playground ball (1 per group), Plastic spoon (1 per group), Masking or painter's tape (1 per group), Timer or stopwatch (1 per group), Try A New Thing Printable (1 per group) Mark a 6-foot "tightrope" on the ground with the tape. Set out the die.

What To Do: Today we will get to practice cheering for one another through a game called "Try a New Thing!" What's the game called? (*Try a New Thing!*) When it is your turn, you will roll a die. Whatever number it lands on will be something for you to try! It may be new for you or something you already know how to do. If you roll a six, you get to choose whichever of the other activities you want to try. Teammates, when a friend is trying something new, cheer on your friend!

Suggested actions for each number:

1. Walk on the "tightrope."
2. Toss a table tennis ball and catch it in a cup.
3. Carry a table tennis ball across the room on a spoon.
4. Toss a playground ball in the air and clap two times before catching it.
5. Say the alphabet in under five seconds.
6. You choose!

Keep It Going: Invite kids to come up with actions to perform for the numbers. Include a round where kids can perform the actions with a friend.

Loud And Clear: Whether you thought those things were difficult or easy, it is always nice to have friends who cheer you on and encourage you. When we cheer on our friends, it helps us stand strong and helps us not want to give up. God made us for community. He made us to help, encourage, and remind each other of His love and goodness. This week, as much as you can, cheer on and encourage your friends!

Discussion Questions:

Let's get connected as we talk about how God made us for community!

1. What are ways we cheer on people with our words? What are ways we cheer on people with our actions? (*Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.*)
2. The Bible tells us that we are made for community, and we can cheer on our friends! Let's open our Bibles to **Philippians 4:8-9** and read about it together. (*Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.*) How can it help encourage you to keep your mind focused on these things in these Bible verses? How can keeping your mind on these things help you cheer on your friends and encourage them? (*These things give us God's peace and helps us remember the good things He gives. We can share these good things with our friends when they are having a difficult time.*)
3. Life is sometimes difficult, but we can remember that Jesus promised He will return and make all things new. Until that happens, we can cheer on our friends to remember Jesus' love and example, think about Him, and focus on the hope of being with Him forever. What are ways you can remember and help your friends remember good things about God? (*When we think about Jesus, we can remember what He did to rescue us from sin and how He helps us love and follow Him even when it isn't easy.*)
4. Have you ever wanted to give up on something because it felt too hard? How can thinking about Jesus and being encouraged by a friend help? (*Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.*)
5. The Bible says that we are made for community, and we can cheer on our friends. What is something encouraging you will remember from today? Is there anything you have questions about? (*Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.*) Let's talk to God and pray. (*Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.*)

God, thank You for always teaching that we are made for community. Help us learn to encourage one another as we think about You and the good things You bring to our lives. Help us to get connected in community and live the way You made us to live. We love you! Amen.

God made us for community! It isn't always easy to follow Jesus, but when we cheer on and encourage our friends, God gives us the strength to never give up. Let's celebrate that we can get connected in community!

Going Home

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.