

Get Ready!

Jesus is a Friend

By: Betsy Moore



Text

Mark 10:13-16; Luke 19:1-10; John 15:1-17

Key Quest Verse

“A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17a).

Bible Background

Jesus is a wonderful Friend. Indeed, He is a friend who “loves at all times” and one who “sticks closer than a brother” (Proverbs 17:17, 18:24). Everywhere Jesus went, He radiated compassion, friendship, and love for all mankind. No matter who they were, what their lives had been like, or what position they held in society, all persons in all places were included in the circle of His acceptance and love. He reached out and drew all persons to Himself.

Three major incidents recorded in the Gospels illustrate His friendship and love: Little children in Galilee (Mark 10:13-16), Zacchaeus, the wealthy tax collector in Jericho (Luke 19:1-10) and our Lord’s very close friend, Lazarus, with his sisters, Mary and Martha, in the village of Bethany near Jerusalem (John 11:1-45).

Get Ready!



Lesson Quest

What I want my students:

Know: Jesus is your friend.

Feel: Secure that Jesus is your friend forever.

Do: Choose the right friends who will keep you on the right track.
Develop a lasting friendship with Jesus.

Leader's Devotion

Nothing compares with true friendship! When you need help, who do you turn to? When you want to talk, who do you turn to? Friends are a treasure and remind us that God created something better than just ourselves. He created the ability for each of us to have relationships. What qualities do you think make a good friendship? What kind of friend are you? Are you a treasure? What friendship qualities does Jesus have that we should reproduce?

Get Set!

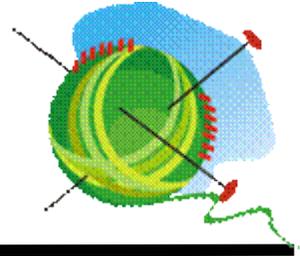
Option A**TREATS**

Materials: Quart jar, skittles or M & M's, lid (The S on skittles can stand for Savior)

Procedure: Fill a quart jar with skittles or M & M's and place the lid on firmly. Instruct the kids that they may have as many treats in the jar as they want, but they must follow your rules. They must leave the jar on the table. They must place one hand behind their backs as they try to open the jar. Each child has 10 seconds to try to open the jar. Continue to talk as the children try to open the jar. Even mention that there are some things that are much better done with a friend. For instance, is it fun to play baseball or soccer all by yourself? Is it fun to play checkers by yourself? It is so good to have friends around to help you out sometimes? If the children haven't caught the clue that they can have a friend help, let each child try to open the jar with one hand and, finally, the teacher tries to open the jar without success. **This would be a lot easier if I had a friend who could help me. I'll hold the jar and (name of child) would you be my friend and help unscrew the lid?** Share the candy with the children. **This is interesting! There is a S on these treats. It must stand for Savior, because Jesus is my friend and Savior. Or, there is an M & M on this candy it must stand for MY MASTER and my friend. In today's lesson we're going to learn about what a super friend Jesus is to us.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Option B

HOW LONG?

Materials: Ball of yarn with a sign tied on “The End,” place a clue on the other side of THE END where suckers can be found, a large sucker for each child with a note taped on “JESUS IS A FRIEND FOREVER!”

Procedure: How many of you like things that lasts a long time? (A soccer game, your favorite candy, etc.) Today, I’ve got something I think you’ll all like, and it could last all day long. Let’s see if we can find it. Begin unwinding the yarn and unwind yarn as you talk. Some things seem like they take f-o-r-e-v-e-r. Do any of you have jobs you have to do at home? (Kids respond.) Does it seem like it takes you f-o-r-e-v-e-r to clean your room? (Kids respond.) When you’re looking forward to Christmas or your birthday, does it seem like it takes f-o-r-e-v-e-r to get here? (Kids respond.) Do any of you have friends that have been your friend since you were a little baby? They’ve been friends for how long? (Kids respond: F-o-r-e-v-e-r.) Forever is a long time, isn’t it? Did you know that Jesus is my best friend? He’s been my friend . . . guess how long? (F-o-r-e-v-e-r.) He can be your friend for how long? (F-o-r-e-v-e-r.) Remember I promised I had something for you. It seemed like it took f-o-r-e-v-e-r to find the clue as to where it was but here it is . . . Read clue and get suckers. These suckers have a special message on them. It says, “Jesus is a friend forever.” In our story today we’re going to learn more about Jesus and what a special friend He is.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

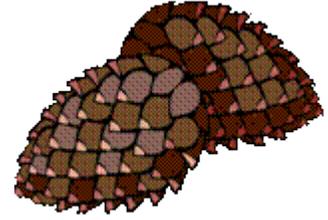
Materials: Doublemint gum and an apple

Advance Preparation: Cut an apple and hollow out the seeds so that when it is put back together with toothpicks, no one will know it has been tampered with.

Can you imagine what it would be like if you were the only person in the world? Who would you have to laugh with or talk to? What would you miss the most if you were the only person in the world? We all need someone to love us and help take care of us. We all need friends that will stick with us no matter what. There used to be a commercial on TV one time that showed 2 people having fun together chewing gum. A song would be playing about doubling your fun. That commercial was for Doublemint gum. I'm going to give you a piece of Doublemint gum and you tell me if chewing it doubles your fun. Let children open and chew gum. Does it? The only thing that I know of that can double your fun is by having two people called friends together. A friend will remember you and share with you and pray for you. Jesus was that kind of friend. He shared whatever He had with His friends and remembered them in prayer. He was kind to them and honest. Everyone can trust Jesus. Jesus can be the same kind of friend to us. The Bible tells us about some moms who brought their kids to Jesus. The kids were probably so excited, they went running up the hill just to see Jesus. Let's skip around the room as we sing "Jesus loves me" or "What a friend we have in Jesus" as we pretend we're going to see Jesus. I'm so excited, aren't you? Sit down. Jesus' helpers, the disciples, knew that Jesus was very tired and they said, "Go away!" The kids and their moms had to be sad as they began to walk away, because they couldn't talk to Him. Then, they heard a beautiful voice "Let the little children come to me," I love them. It was Jesus! What would you think if you were one of those kids? How would that make you feel?

Another day, Jesus was going to Jericho and everybody was excited to see Him. Zacchaeus was a tax collector and not very many people liked him, but he wanted to see Jesus, too. The problem was that Zacchaeus was very, very short and couldn't see over the people. Zacchaeus jumped and squirmed to get through the crowd to see Jesus, but it was impossible, because he was just too short. All of a sudden, he had a terrific idea. He'd climb a tree and then he could see Jesus as He passed by. Guess what, Jesus went right by the tree and even stopped and talked to Zacchaeus. Jesus went to his house and became his friend! Zacchaeus changed his life and was good from then on. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. If we are good and produce or bring others to become a friend of Jesus, we will live forever with Him. Those who are not good, will be destroyed.

Not everyone that followed Jesus was His friend. Some people followed Him and watched Him just to make trouble. They were kind of like this apple. They looked great on the outside and followed Jesus. But in their hearts they were yucky! Open the apple to display the brown inside. They were rotten to the core trying to get rid of Jesus. It was a sad day when those people had Jesus killed. But, we know that Jesus was raised and is alive again and is in heaven watching over us and preparing a kingdom so we can be with Him forever. Jesus loves us and is our friend forever.

Go!**Friend to the Birds****ARTS/CRAFTS**

Materials: Pine cones, spoon, peanut butter, birdseed, yarn 24", sandwich bags

Quest Connection

Jesus had a lot of friends who helped Him. Some friends provided food for Him and others provided a place for Him to sleep. He wants us to be friends even to the animals that God created. How do you think we can be good friends to the animals? Today we are going to be good friends to the birds and help supply their food.

Procedure: Place a paper plate on the table for each child with a pine cone. Tie yarn at the biggest end so that it can be hung from a limb in a tree. Spoon about 3 tablespoons of peanut butter on each paper plate. Let the children spread the peanut butter on the pine cone with spoons. Roll the peanut butter cone into a bowl of birdseed. Let each child write their names on a sandwich bag and place their bird feeders in a plastic bag.

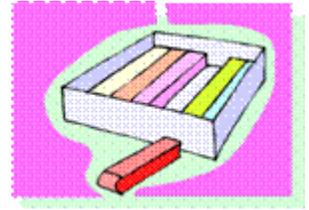
Close

Sing the following song:

“Jesus is My Best Friend” (sung to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

“Je - sus is my best friend, my best friend, my best friend,
Je - sus is my best friend, He’s with me everyday.”

(Motions: As you say Jesus, point to heaven; as you say best friend, hug yourself; as you say He’s with me everyday, point with index finger up and down with the beat.)

Go!**Sidewalk Crayon**

ART

Materials: 1/8 cup water, 7/8 cup soap flakes, food coloring, ice cube tray**Quest Connection****Draw pictures of your friends on the sidewalk.****Procedure:** Pour water in mixing bowl and add soap flakes until smooth. Add a few drops of food coloring and press into ice cube trays. Let dry in a warm place 3 or 4 days. Test sidewalk crayon by pressing your finger, to make sure soap is hard and pop it out.**Close****Pictures wash away. Jesus is a friend forever. He is always near!**

Go!**Medical Visitors****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: Ask a doctor, nurse, or paramedic to join your class and have he/she bring some medical items and Band-Aids

Quest Connection

Today, We're talking about friends and I'd like to talk to you about my friend for life. His name is Jesus, and He saved my life. He saved me from a sickness called sin. I've invited a friend (name) to help us out today.

Procedure: (Suggested material for guest) **Have any of you ever been sick before?** (Kids respond.) **Did the doctor help you? I have several things here that help me in my work. This is a stethoscope and it _____ (fill in the blank). I do my best to take care of sick people. Sometimes I get scared when someone is really sick. I know my friend Jesus is there with me to help others feel better. Jesus is the friend that can cure the deadly disease of sin. Do you think Jesus is a good friend to have? I have some Band-Aids. Does anybody here like Band-Aids? They really help when you have a cut or scrape to protect the sore and help it heal. Today I'm going to give you 2 Band-Aids to remind you of our friend for life, Jesus. Place your Band-Aids over each other to form a cross.**

Close

Jesus took care of the worst deadly disease of all, and that is sin. He died on the cross for us. Jesus is our friend for life.

Go!

Puppet Friends**PUPPETS**

Materials: Knee-highs or panty hose, yarn, buttons, wiggle eyes, tacky glue, puffy paint, rubber-bands, a metal clothes hanger bent into a circle.

Quest Connection

We may not be able to have our friends around us all the time, but there is one friend that is forever. Jesus is our forever friend. Talk to your puppet friend about your friend Jesus. Talk to someone with your puppet and tell them about Jesus.

Advanced preparation: Cut the legs off the panty hose (one for each child); bend clothes hangers

Procedure: Give each student a clothes hanger. Pull the hose leg tightly over the hanger and wrap the rubber band at the bottom. Use yarn to make hair for puppet and glue in place. Add eyes and a button nose. A happy face can be made from puffy paint or red yarn.

Close

Prayer: **Dear Father, thank You for giving me friends to play with and who love me. Thank You for my best friend, Jesus. Amen.**

Go!**Fun Friend Seat****GAME**

Materials: Slips of paper, bowl, chair, red towel, ball, timer

Quest Connection

Doesn't it make you feel good when your friends say nice things to you? We're going to play a game that helps us remember to say kind words to everyone.

Procedure: Cover a chair with a red towel and call it your "Fun Friend Seat." The student sitting in the seat must roll a ball toward any student and as that student picks the ball up, they must say one nice thing about the student in the "Fun Friend Seat" and then roll the ball back. Use an egg timer so students have equal amounts of time in the friend seat. Try to make sure each student gets to say one nice thing to the friend sitting in the seat. Take turns until each child has had an opportunity to sit in the fun friend seat. It may be nice for the teacher to also take a turn!

Close

It's great to have nice friends to encourage us. To be a good friend, we must encourage others. Jesus loves us, and is our friend forever.



Go!**Making a Best Friend****PUPPET SHOW**

Materials: A helper from the congregation, puppets needed: Hot Tamale and Cornelius, box, glue, heart, small box with the word “TRUTH” on the front, Resource Page

Quest Connection

We’re going to watch a puppet show about who our true best friend is. Watch and listen carefully.

Procedure: Invite a guest in to be one of the puppets, while you are the other one. Practice the puppet show before performing it. Use the resource page for the script.

Close

Prayer: Thank You so much, Father, for Your Son. He is my best friend! I will always remember to put Him first in my life. Amen.

Go!**Friend's Frame****ARTS/CRAFTS**

Materials: Camera with film, poster board, stickers, magnets, index card with $\frac{1}{2}$ hole cut in the center, Resource Page

Quest Connection

We often take pictures with our friends to remind us of good times together. Today we're going to take pictures to remind us of good times spent learning at church that Jesus is our friend. It's very important that we learn how to focus when we take pictures. To practice, I have an index card with a half-hole cut out in the center. We need to practice focusing in on the subject. So, each of you look through the hole and make sure you can see the person as well as notice what is in the background (the church). Now I will let each of you take a turn of taking a picture of a classmate.

Procedure: Cut a picture frame using the pattern and cut same size piece to fit on the back. Cut the center from the frame and place a small amount of glue around the edge of the frame leaving the top opened to slide the picture in. Decorate the frame with stickers, markers, etc. Place magnets on the back of the picture frame. Students take pictures of each other with the teacher (develop and have ready for next week). Place the picture in the frame and attach to refrigerator.

Close

Remember to focus in on the person just as we should focus in while we are talking to our friends or God.

Resource Page: Friend's Frame

“A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17).

Instructions:

Use this pattern to create a frame from poster board. Cut two frames out. One will be the back and one will be the front. Cut the oval out of the front and place a narrow line of glue on each side of the frame and the bottom.

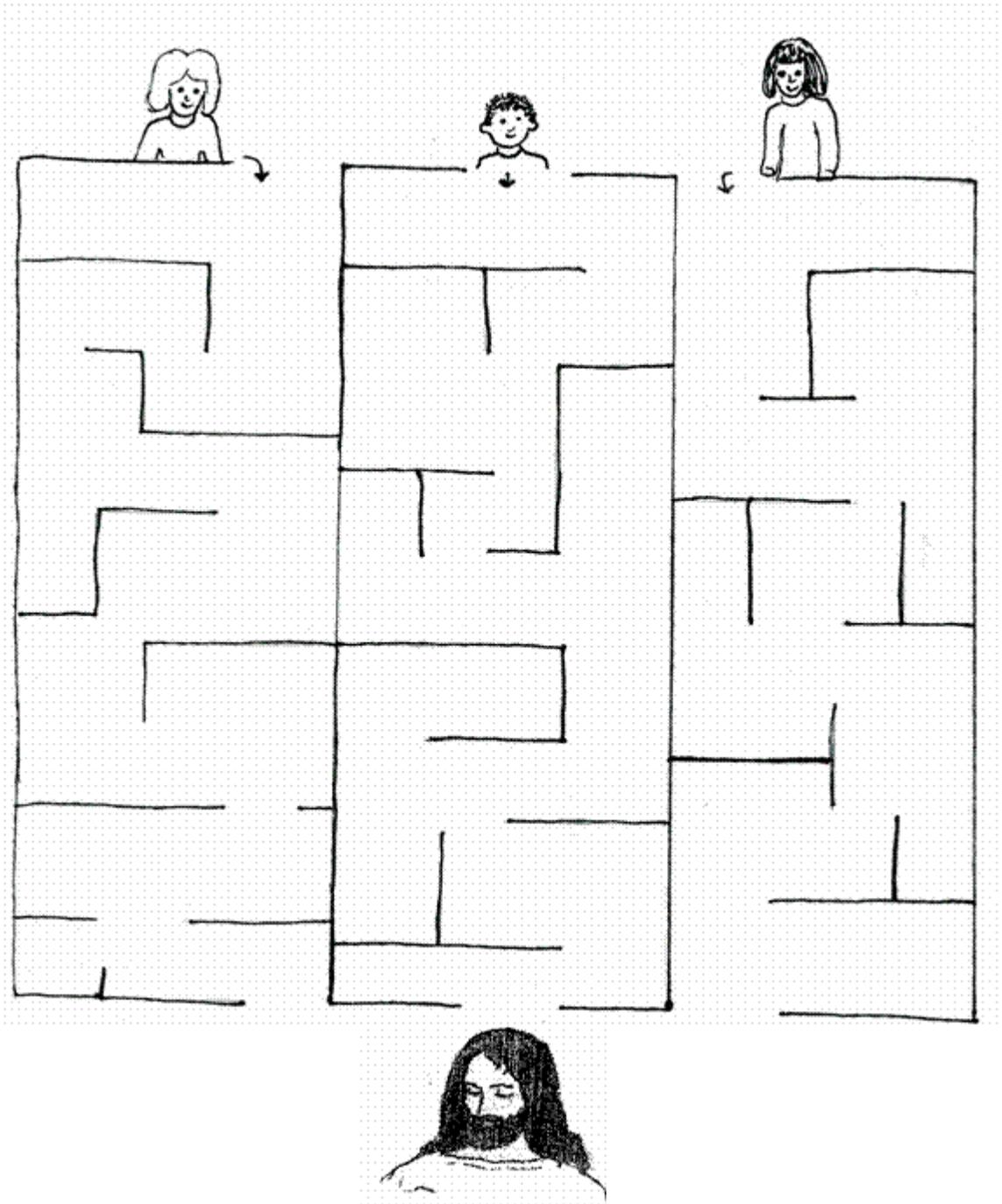
(Leave the top open to slide your picture in.)

Place a magnet on the back and attach to your refrigerator.

JESUS IS OUR FRIEND

“A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17).

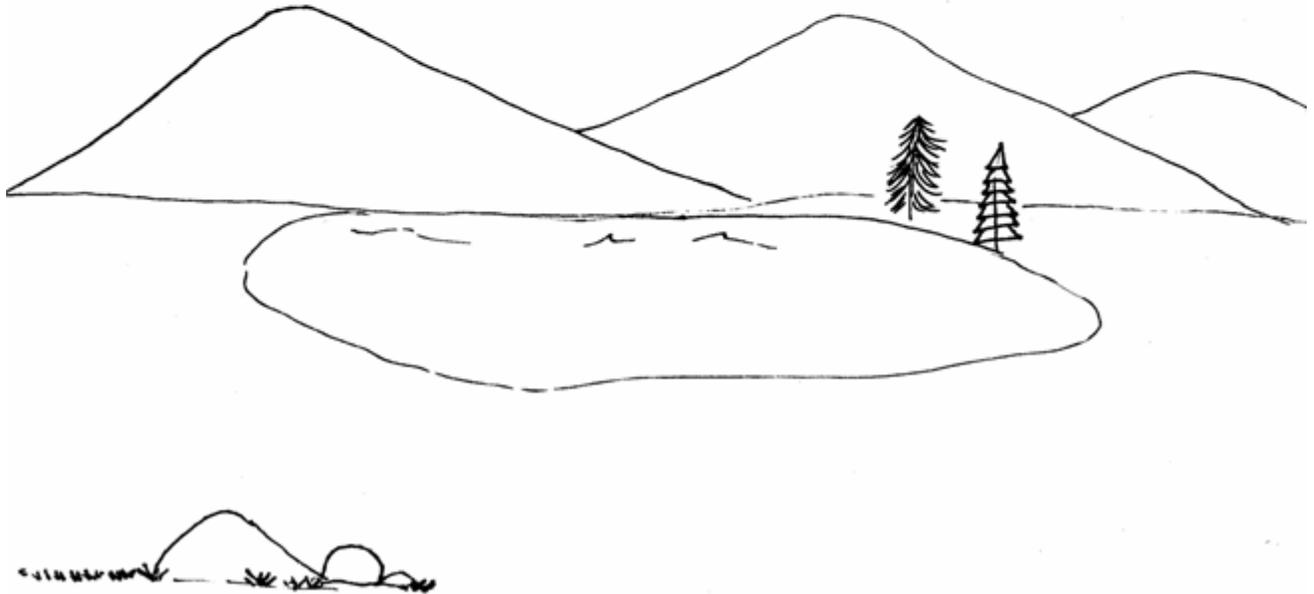
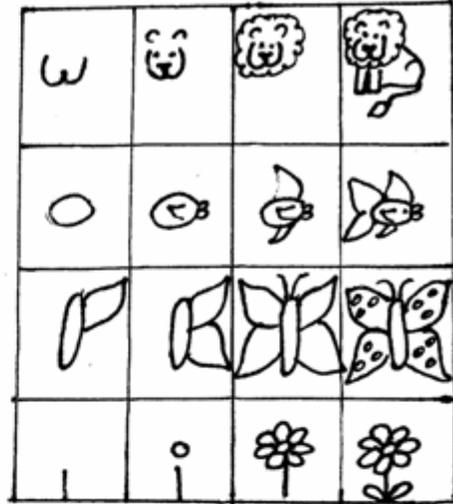
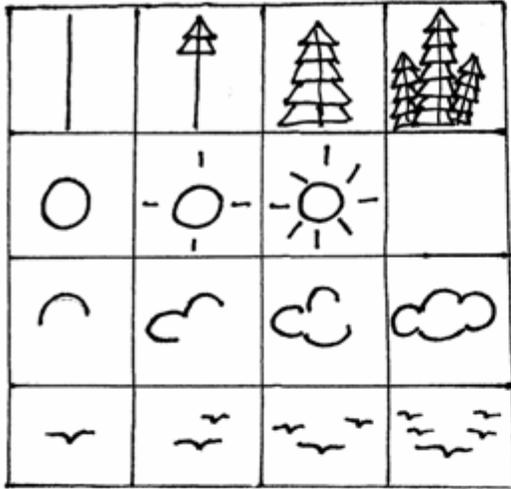
Can you help these three children find their friend Jesus? Follow the arrow.



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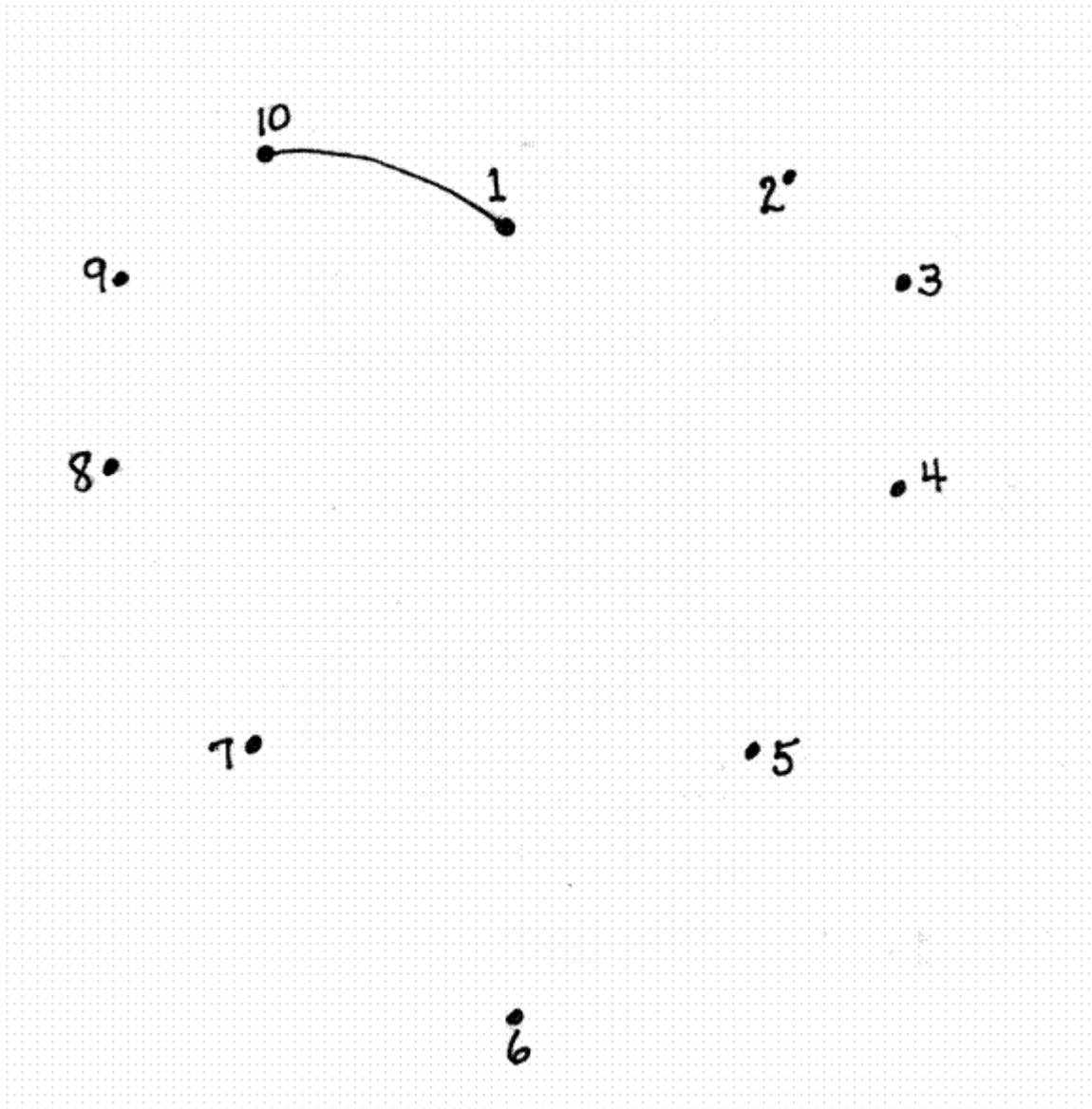
It is fun to go places with friends. Follow the instructions and draw a pleasant place to go with a friend. Draw fish in the water so you can go fishing with your friend or flowers by the rocks so you can pick them for your mom. Have fun chasing the butterfly!



JESUS IS OUR FRIEND

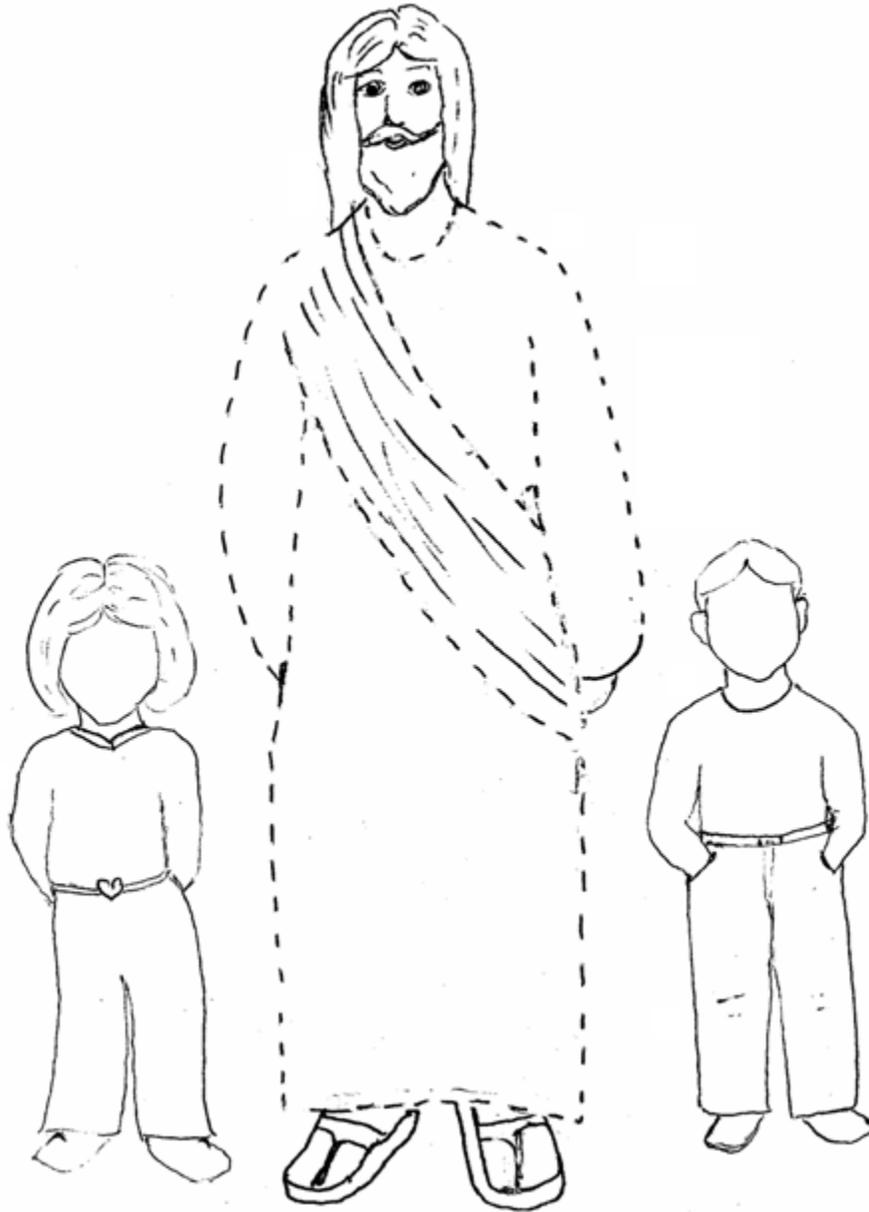
“A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17).

Connect the dots and color the picture.



Journal Page

Jesus is with you all the time. He wants to be your best friend. Draw your face on the picture and add the face of one of your friends. Connect the dots to complete the picture and color it. Jesus is your friend forever, and He loves you!



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JESUS IS OUR FRIEND

“A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17).

Luke 19:1-10. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over everybody in the crowd. He suddenly had an idea and climbed a tree. Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree and stopped and talked to him. Jesus went to his house and they became friends. Find Zacchaeus in the tree and circle him, then color the picture.

