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|  **Strands** | Christian Ethics and Ethical Theory; Faith in Action, Actions Leading to Faith |
| **Stage of Development** | Early Childhood (Year K-2) |  |

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| **Created** May 2021 | **Review** 2025 |

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| **Aim** | This unit gives students the opportunity to explore what makes a good friend, while looking at the example of Jesus and his friends. It introduces students to some of Jesus’ friends, including the disciples.  |
| **Content Descriptions** | **Knowledge and Understanding*** Jesus was a good friend to people
* Jesus had friends and they included Mary, Martha, Lazarus, the Disciples
* The characteristics of a good friend
* Being a good friend can be hard sometimes
 | **Religious Studies Skills and Virtues*** Concept cracking
* Critical thinking
* Friendship
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| **Resources** | The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones | This Bible has beautiful illustrations and considerable effort has been put into developing each story so Children can understand the meaning.  |
|  | The Beginner’s Bible, Candle Books | This is a very simple Bible and is great for younger students.  |
|  | Bible Gateway [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) | This website allows you to look up Bible passages. It has different translations. The New International Version is a standard translation. You can change the translation to find translations that are more appropriate for Children and easier to understand e.g. Contemporary English Version.  |
|  | RE:Quest [www.request.org.uk](https://request.org.uk/) | This website has been developed by an agency of the Anglican church in the UK and has great videos of key Bible stories. |
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| **Lesson** | **Key Questions** | **Lesson Activity Ideas** | **Resources** |
| **1** | Jesus is a good friend to Zacchaeus  | What type of friend was Jesus to Zacchaeus? | 10min10min10min10min | Watch: play a clip from Toy Story that demonstrates the friendship between Buzz and Woody. Students discuss the friendship between Buzz and Woody – what was it like? How were they good friends to each other? What does it feel like when you don’t have many friends or don’t get picked for things?Read: the story of Zacchaeus from a Children’s Bible (Luke 19:1-10). Discuss how Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus. How did meeting Jesus change Zacchaeus’s life? How can we be a good friend to others? (eg say positive things, pick people for teams, invite them to play).Tag-storytelling: retell the students the first line of the Zacchaeus story. Tag a student and ask them to tell the class what happened next. That student then tags another student who shares what happened next until the entire story has been retold. The untagged students can monitor the re-telling for accuracy. Game: allocate students into pairs. Instruct the students to play noughts and crosses or another simple game with their partner. The point is for the student to interact with someone they would not normally play with.  | Video: [Toy Story clip](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMN4JZ8crVY) (35 sec)Children’s Bible |
| 2 | Jesus is a good friend to Mary and Martha | What type of friend was Jesus?What type of friend was Martha?What type of friend was Mary?What are some of the challenges of being a good friend? (listening) | 5min10min10min10min10min | Discuss: when is it the right time to brush your teeth - in the morning or before you eat? When is the right time to clean your room - when your mother tells you to, or when you feel like it? When is it a good time to be a friend?Read: the story of Mary and Martha from a Children’s Bible (Luke 10:38-42) Introduce Mary and Martha– Jesus’ friends. Activity: ask the one of the students to play Mary and the other student to play Martha. Ask the rest of the students to give Mary and Martha advice. Discuss what the class thinks Mary and Martha ‘should have done’ in the story. Discuss: what was happening in the story – Martha was very busy trying to make food etc (which was important too) but she didn’t stop to spend time with Jesus and listen to him. How was Jesus a good friend to Mary and Martha? (eg spent time with them, shared important things with them) How can we be good friends to others? Game: mingle to music. When the music stops students find a partner and tell their partner something (teacher reads questions from a pre-pared list). Feedback at the end. How does it feel when people listen to you?  | Children’s BibleSheet: Questions for Listening Game |
| 3 | Jesus is a good friend to the Disciples | What type of friend was Jesus?How can we serve our friends? | 10min5min10min15min5min | Activity: Show student the PowerPoint slide (or worksheet) and ask them to rank the people from most important to least important. If you have a younger class re make the PowerPoint with pictures or photos.Show: The students a picture of Jesus washing the apostles’ feet and ask them what’s happening in the picture. Watch: video of the story of Jesus washing his disciple’s feet. Discuss What might feet have been like in Jesus’ day? When people only had sandals and the streets were very dusty. Why did Jesus wash his disciples’ feet? Jesus was humbly serving his disciples. The act symbolises the way Jesus washes us of our sin and offers ongoing forgiveness (link to next lesson). Activity: Break the students into small groups. Provide each small group with a tub full of water and a towel. Ask them to take of their shoes and wash each other’s feet. Discuss again with the students why it was so significant that Jesus washed the disciples’ feet. Discuss: ways the students could serve and love each other this week. | PowerPoint or worksheet: Who is Important? [Famous paintings of Jesus washing the apostles’ feet.](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category%3APaintings_of_Jesus_Christ_washing_the_feet_of_the_apostles)Video: [Jesus washes his disciples’ feet](https://vimeo.com/32098046) (5min)Bowls, water |
| **4**  | Challenges of being a good friend- Forgiveness | What type of friend was Jesus?What is forgiveness? | 10min10min10min15min | Brainstorm: What is forgiveness? When is it hard to forgive? What does it feel like when someone forgives you? (forgiveness is to acknowledge the wrongdoing but to spare the doer)Role play: Ask the students to role play a situation where a friend forgives a wrongdoing. You could write brief scenarios for your students if you think they will struggle to think of their own. Read: Jesus’ friends falling asleep on Maundy [Easter] Thursday in Gethsemane from a Children’s Bible (Matthew 26:36-46), or Peter’s betrayal (Matt 26:69-75). Then talk about how Jesus forgave his friends even when they weren’t good friends to him. You may also like to look at Matthew 18:21-22.Worksheet: Students write a response on the worksheet to describe two occasions: 1) A time when I was a good friend and it was easy 2) A time when I was a good friend and it was not easy. Talk about what can help us be a good friend (eg remembering Jesus’ example, praying, being forgiving). You can change this worksheet to pictures if your students are not writing independently yet.  | Children’s BibleWorksheet: Being a Good Friend |
| **5** | Summary | What does a good friend do? | 10min35min | Read: Proverbs 11:27, 13:20, 14:22, 17:9. Explain what a Proverb is - a truth based on Biblical wisdom that can also point to something deeper. Discuss what some of the Proverbs listed might mean.Activity: Brainstorm what the student have learnt about being a good friend during this unit and create a ‘Wanted’ poster for a good friend. Extension: Friendship word search | Worksheet: Wanted Template Worksheet: Friendship Wordsearch |