

Worship at Home

Family Time



Friendship

Welcome to our Worship at home time, this week focusing on **Friendship**.

In this pack you will find an

- **Opening prayer**
- **Bible Passage**
- **Discussion Questions**
- **Reflection Notes**
- **Prayer Activity**
- **Blessing**



The resource is provided for you to use as you wish.

You might want to use all the sections in one go, or you might want to use over the week.

You might pick out just one or two sections to use or add in your own ideas.

Share leading each section and let children have a go if they would like to.

At the end there are ideas for exploring the theme of friendship with younger children (KS1).

Gather your things

- Candle to light placed on something safe or a battery operated candle
- **Bible - either the book or on a phone**
- Instructions for making a friendship bracelet <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/479422322802105063/> card and wool or embroidery thread
- **OR a 20cm length of twisted twine or string or 3 ply wool for each person**



Opening Prayer

Light a candle and have a moment of quiet

Pray Together: **Jesus light of the world
be with us today, Amen**

Take a moment to think about the activities you might have done around the theme of keeping going on a journey and friendship. Perhaps each person would like to share one thing that they found interesting, helpful or surprising.



Read the letter from St Paul (1 Thessalonians 5: 8-18)

So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it.

¹²⁻¹³ And now, friends, we ask you to honour those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!

¹³⁻¹⁵ Get along among yourselves, each of you doing your part.

Our counsel is that you warn the freeloaders to get a move on. Gently encourage the stragglers, and reach out for the exhausted, pulling them to their feet. Be patient with each person, attentive to individual needs. And be careful that when you get on each other's nerves you don't snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out.

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.



Discussion Questions

- What has stuck in your mind from the passage from Paul's letter?
- **What does it teach us about friendship?**
- Do you think any of your friends might be feeling left behind at the moment?
- **How might you be a good friend to them?**



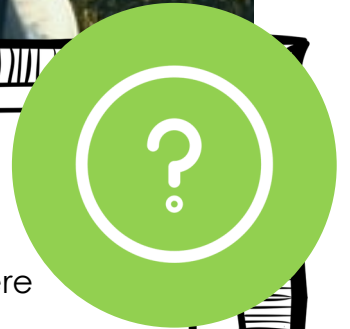
Reflection:

We know that Jesus had 12 followers the disciples who he lived and travelled with for 3 years. We assume them to be his closest friends. We also know that Jesus visited Bethany a number of times. There was a family that he stayed with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. It could have been a safe space for him where they looked after him, provided somewhere to stay and food to eat but also great company.

At the start of John chapter 12 it describes how Jesus stayed with them again after he had entered Jerusalem on a donkey (what we celebrate as Psalm Sunday). Later that week Jesus entered Jerusalem again for the last supper with the disciples before his arrest and crucifixion (Good Friday) so it would have been an anxious time.

Having good friends is important. Having friends you can rely on when you are feeling anxious is really important. Knowing you can be yourself and honest about your feelings can make an enormous difference and help to reassure us and calm us.

We can be with the people in our household at the moment but not our family or friends in other households. It is hard not to be able to chat with them very much or to only be able to call them and not see them in person. So we must find new ways of encouraging one another.



Prayer Focus: how we can be good friends and to pray for them



Prayer Activity Idea One

1. In Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12 it talks about friends together being stronger than being alone and it mentions a 3 ply cord. This is 3 strands wound together.
2. **Take a piece of string or 3 ply wool. Pray as you try to unravel the cord and see how much weaker the individual cords are. Pray that God would strengthen your friendships.**



Prayer Activity Idea Two

1. Begin making a friendship bracelet for a friend and finish later.
2. **Pray for your friend as you make it. Think of the things that they are struggling with and thank God for the things that are going well for them.**
3. Thank God for the characteristics that make your friend a good friend to you. Pray and ask God to help you be a good friend to them.
4. **Ask God to strengthen your friendship even though you may not be able to see each other in person. Ask God to bless your friendships.**

Prayer

Father God,

We thank you that you made us to be in relationship with others and have friends. We pray for our friends and for ourselves to know great care and support from those around us. May we be encouraged by friends at school, college or work. May we show your love and care to our friends.

Amen.

Source: Adapted from [prayers for children](#) on the Church of England website.



Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you

**The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you**

The Lord turn his face to you and give you his peace.

Amen



Ideas for younger children

Read the story of Jesus healing the paralysed man in a children's Bible. (Luke 5: 17-26)

- How did the man's friends show their friendship to him?
- **Retell the story using toys or items in your house.**
- Use playdough to recreate something from the story.
- **Draw or paint a picture showing your favourite bit of the story.**



Practical Activities

- Think about your friends. What could be difficult for them right now?
- **What could you say or do to encourage them and brighten their day?**
- Share or write some ideas down.
- **Remember a great time you had with a friend. Look back at photos of you with your friends if you have any.**
- Draw a picture of one of your good memories with friends.
- **Pray and thank God for these times.**

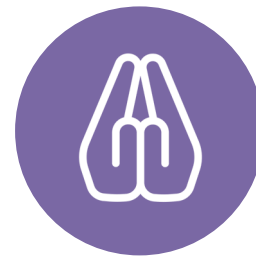


Have you found this resource useful and would like to find out about similar tools you could use? Please visit the link below for more Young Leaders Award at Home resources and ideas.



Please visit:

www.abyyt.com/yla-at-home



@ABYyouthtrust