
Unlikely Friends Sample Lesson

Lesson 1: I Promise to Love and Follow My Friend

Key Truth: Jesus is my best friend... on Him I can depend
Key Verse: There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
Proverbs 18:24
Date:

LESSON PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 18:1-4 (David and Jonathan become friends)

SUMMARY: Just like Jonathan offered David his friendship, Jesus offers us His friendship. We enter a friendship with Jesus by asking Him to be our Forgiver, Leader and Friend.

LESSON SUPPLIES:

Pre-Service:

- Games and activities

Offering/Worship:

- Offering containers up front

Welcome:

- Baseball shirt for Host
- Baseball hat for Host
- Baseball bat for Host
- Container of home run gumballs

Icebreaker: Baseball Talk

- 1 inflatable baseball for each group with the numbers 1-10 written all over it

Key Verse Game: Baseball Mix-up

- 1 set of Baseball Mix-up cards for each group (cardstock)
- 1 baseball field paper for each group (cardstock)
- 1 button or other small item to place on the baseball field paper (the item will represent a runner)

Lesson:

- Crown for up front
- Royal robe for up front
- Shepherd's hat for up front
- Old, torn, dirty robe for up front
- Shepherd's staff for up front
- 1 plastic baggie with moth balls or other stinky item in it for each group
- 2 white pieces of cloth for each child (approx. 6" x 6")
- Markers, crayons and pens for each group
- 1 white t-shirt for Teacher that is marked up to look dirty and has the word "sin" written on it in large letters on the front
- 1 white t-shirt for Teacher that has the word "Jesus" written on the front of it

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Prayer Time:

- Sign-up sheet for Starting Point for each group

Announcements:

- Take home paper on stage for Host

Review Game: Oreoball

- 2 pieces of thin plexiglass (approx. 24" x 15")
- Wet wipes or paper towels for clean up
- 1 pack of Oreos per service for up front

Parent Pick-Up:

- Take home paper for each child (cardstock)
- Starting Point Sign-Up Sheet

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PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES (25 MIN)

Music videos on screen (1-4)

- Games and activities
- Volunteers spending time with kids

VIDEO COUNTDOWN (5 MIN)

5 min Countdown with fast, fun music (5)

- Group leaders gather the kids to the tables and spend time talking with them during the countdown. Here are some sample questions to discuss:
 - How did your week go?
 - How was school this week?
 - Did anything special or interesting happen this week?
 - What did you do fun this week?
 - What is your favorite _____? (*pick something*)
 - What's something else you want to talk about?

Transition Slide with fun music (6)

WORSHIP SONGS AND OFFERING (10 MIN)

WL: Hey kids!!! Turn to the person next to you; give them a high five, and say, "I'm ready to have fun!"

(Give kids time to do this.)

WL: Awesome! We are so pumped that you're here today! Join us up front and let's get this party started by worshipping Jesus with a song!

Song 1 – _____ (7)

WL: As we prepare to give our offering today, check out this verse.

Unlikely Friends

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“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full--pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” Luke 6:38 (8)

WL: How many of you have ever been pouring cereal and you poured so much your bowl overflowed or you were pouring a drink and it overflowed over the cup?

(Let kids respond.)

WL: This verse tells us when we give our offering to God, He will give back to us even more. His blessings back to us will be like a cereal bowl overflowing or a drink overflowing the cup.

WL: You can trust God. When you give to Him, He will give back to you even more.

Prayer for offering – ask God to help the kids trust God with their offering and know that He will bless them when they give. Invite kids to come to the front and place their offering in the containers during the next song.

Song 2 – _____ (9)

Transition slide with music (10)

WL: Awesome job! Let's head back to our seats!

(Have kids return to their seats.)

WELCOME (5 MIN)

(HOST enters wearing a baseball hat and shirt and holding a bat.)

HOST: Hey guys! My name is _____ and I am so excited because we are kicking off a brand-new series today called UNLIKELY FRIENDS! Turn to the person next to you and say “Unlikely Friends!”

(Pause for response.)

HOST: Unlikely Friends is the story of two friends named Dave and Johnny. They love baseball and have some wild adventures while playing. They'll also teach us what it

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means to have a friendship with Jesus. But before we jump into their story, I want to let you know that your group has a chance to win a really cool award today. It's called the Home run Award!

Home run Award with fun sound effect and music (11)

(Bring out the container of Home Run gumballs and show the kids what they can win.)

Talk (12)

HOST: If you're going to win the Home Run Award, you've got to warm up and get ready to play. Everybody jump up on your feet and I'll show you how you can win!

HOST: First, if you want to win the Home Run Award, you'll want to talk when it's time to talk! You'll hear me or someone else say "Talk about that in your groups." When you hear that, start talking with the other people in your group. Let's practice this. When I say, "talk" I want you to turn the other people in your group and say, "Let's win the Home Run Award."

(Say "talk" and give kids a few seconds to say this.)

Listen (13)

HOST: Great job. Next, you want to listen when it's time to listen! Start jumping up and down and when you hear me say "home run," freeze in place and get quiet.

(Do this a few times with the kids.)

Play (14)

HOST: The next way you can win the Home Run Award is to play! We'll be playing some fun games today. When it's time to play, jump in and play! Let's practice that right now! When I say, "play," I want you to run around your table one time and while yelling out, "play ball."

(Have kids do this a couple of times.)

Have Fun (15)

Unlikely Friends

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HOST: Another way your group can win the Home Run Award is to have fun! We'd don't want to see any frowns here today...God's house is a fun place to be...on the count of 3 everyone give me your biggest smile! 1...2..3...

(Give kids a second to smile.)

HOST: There's one final thing we'll be watching for today...and that's groups that say the key truth when this happens...

Attention grabber & key truth - Jesus is my best friend...on Him I can depend (16)

(Bring up attention grabber a couple of times and have kids practice saying it.)

Transition slide with music (17)

HOST: Cool! We'll be watching throughout the service today and give the award away at the end. Here's the first chance for your group to catch our eye by talking.

ICEBREAKER: BASEBALL TALK (5 MIN)

Baseball Talk with music and 5-minute timer (18)

Ice Breaker Instructions:

- *Get out the inflatable baseball. It has the numbers 1-10 written on it.*
- *Throw it to a child at your table and have him or her say the number that is closest to one of his or her hands on the ball.*
- *Ask the child to tell everyone their name and then ask the child the corresponding question:*
 - 1) *Would you rather never play video games again or never watch TV again? Why?*
 - 2) *Would you rather go to the beach when it's rainy outside or be stuck inside when it's sunny outside? Why?*
 - 3) *Would you rather drive in a hover-car to school every day or fly on a jetpack to school every day? Why?*
 - 4) *Would you rather eat pizza with sprinkles on it or eat ice cream with bacon on it? Why?*
 - 5) *Would you rather eat a peanut butter and jelly sandwich dipped in a dirty lake or eat a cricket dipped in chocolate? Why?*
 - 6) *Would you rather go to Disney World or Universal Studios? Why?*
 - 7) *Would you rather be a giant hamster or a tiny rhino? Why?*

Unlikely Friends

Lesson 1: I Promise to Love and Follow My Friend

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- 8) *Would you rather have a pet dinosaur or a pet whale? Why?*
- 9) *Would you rather have smelly feet or bad breath? Why?*
- 10) *Would you rather have cookies or ice cream? Why?*

Attention grabber & key truth - Jesus is my best friend...on Him I can depend (19)

Transition slide with music (20)

KEY VERSE GAME: BASEBALL MIX-UP (5 MIN)

“There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24 (21)

HOST: Our key verse this month is Proverbs 18:24. It reminds us that Jesus is our best friend. Let’s read it together one time.

(Have kids read verse with you.)

HOST: Let’s play a fun game that will help us memorize the verse. It’s called “Baseball Mix-up.”

Baseball Mix-up

“There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24 (22)

Baseball Mix-Up Instructions:

- *Each group will take out a baseball field paper and place a button or other item on home plate.*
- *Each group will take out a set of baseball mix-up cards.*
- *Each card has a word of the verse on it.*
- *Lay the cards face down and mix them up.*
- *On “go” groups will turn over the cards and put the words in the right order.*
- *As soon as they get the verse in order, they can move their piece to 1st base.*
- *The leader will then quickly turn the cards back over and mix them up again and the kids will repeat the process.*
- *Goal is to move the piece all the way around the bases by putting the verse in order 4 times before time runs out.*
- *Kids will have 2 1/2 minutes to get all the way around the bases.*

Baseball Mix-up with 2 ½ -minute timer and fast music

“There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24 (23)

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HOST: Great job! Let's read the verse together one more time!

"There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24 (24)

Transition slide with music (25)

DAVE & JOHNNY VIDEO 1 (5 MIN)

HOST: A lot of groups are talking and having fun and getting involved. Keep working together so you can win the Home Run Award! Now, as I mentioned earlier, we're going to check out the story of two kids who were unlikely friends. Their names are Dave and Johnny...let's see what happened.

Dave & Johnny Video 1 (26)

Transition slide (27)

LESSON (15 MIN)

TEACHER: How many of you think Dave and Johnny were unlikely friends?

Picture of Dave and Johnny (28)

(Let kids respond.)

TEACHER: They definitely were. Normally a kid like Johnny wouldn't reach out to be friends with a kid like Dave, would he? But he did. And what did they do to become friends?

(Let kids respond.)

TEACHER: That's right. They shook on it and promised to be friends. They basically entered an agreement, didn't they?

Picture of Dave and Johnny shaking hands (29)

TEACHER: Dave and Johnny remind me of two other unlikely friends...their story is found in the Bible.

Unlikely Friends

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TEACHER: Their names were David and Jonathan.

David and Jonathan (30)

TEACHER: This month we're going to learn about their unlikely friendship and how it can show us how to be best friends with Jesus.

TEACHER: I need two volunteers to help me with this.

(Pick two boys to be David and Jonathan).

Jonathan (31)

TEACHER: First, let's take a look at Jonathan. He was the king's son. He was rich. He lived in a palace and his family had lots of money. He probably grew up with maids and other people to take care of his every need. He was royalty.

(Place a crown on Jonathan's head and put the robe on him.)

Palace with sound effect of royal trumpet blowing (32)

TEACHER: Everyone turn to the person next to you and say "royalty."

David (33)

TEACHER: David, on the other hand, was not a king's son. David did not live in a big palace or have a maid. He was the youngest boy in his family. He was not the strongest or coolest. In fact, he was a simple shepherd. That means he took care of sheep all day.

(Dress the other child with the shepherd's hat, old robe and staff.)

Picture and sound effect of sheep (34)

TEACHER: There's something you need to know about sheep. They STINK! Probably a little bit like this.

(Have each group quickly pass around their plastic baggie that has moth balls or some other stinky item in it and let the kids smell it.)

TEACHER: Everyone say, "Ewww!"

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Attention grabber & key truth – Jesus is my best friend...on Him I can depend (35)

Transition slide (36)

TEACHER: How many of you think it's unlikely that a kid who is a prince and living in a palace will be friends with a kid who takes care of stinky sheep?

(Let kids respond.)

TEACHER: It was highly unlikely. But...check out what the Bible says in I Samuel 18.

“There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David.”
I Samuel 18:1 (37)

TEACHER: Jonathan, the son of a king, wanted to be friends with David...a shepherd boy.

TEACHER: And this is an example of another unlikely friendship. It's this. Jesus, who is the Son of God, wants to be friends with you and I. That's right! Jesus, the perfect Son of God, loves you and wants to be your best friend.

Jesus loves you and wants to be your best friend (38)

TEACHER: The Bible goes on to say that David and Jonathan promised to be best friends.

“And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself.” I Samuel 18:3 (39)

TEACHER: This shows us how to enter a friendship with Jesus. You become friends with Jesus by asking Him to be your Forgiver, Leader and Friend.

Forgiver – Leader – Friend (40)

TEACHER: Notice what Jonathan did.

“Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David...” I Samuel 18:4 (41)

TEACHER: Jonathan showed David he wanted to be his friend by giving him his royal robe.

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(Have Jonathan put his robe and crown on David. Place the robe over top of David's old robe.)

TEACHER: Did you know Jesus has done the same thing to show He wants to be your best friend? Read this verse with me.

"I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For He has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness." Isaiah 61:10 (42)

TEACHER: Jesus has shown you He wants to be your best friend by offering you His robe of righteousness. Let's do something to help you understand this better.

(Two kids up front can return to their seats.)

The Robe of Righteousness (43)

- *Give every child a piece of white cloth and a marker or crayon.*
- *Hold up the shirt example up front.*
- *Have the kids scribble on the cloth to make it dirty and write the word "sin" on it.*
- *Next read this verse with the kids.*

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..." Isaiah 64 (44)

- *Explain that we have all sinned and this is what God sees when He looks at us before we enter a friendship with Jesus. Our very best is like the dirty, stinky piece of cloth like they are holding.*
- *Next read this verse with the kids.*

"I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For He has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness." Isaiah 61 (45)

- *Explain that Jesus never sinned. His robe looks like this.*
- *Hold up a clean, white shirt that says Jesus on it.*
- *Give every child a piece of white cloth. Tell them not to scribble on it but simply to write the word "Jesus" small in one corner*

TEACHER: Just like Jonathan did for David; Jesus has shown He wants to be your friend by offering you His robe of righteousness. When you accept Jesus' robe of righteousness, here's what happens.

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- *Have the kids lay their dirty cloth down on the table.*
- *Have the kids then lay their clean cloth down on the table over the top of the dirty cloth so it covers it up.*
- *Explain that when we accept Jesus' forgiveness, He forgives our sins and covers it with His perfection. So, when God looks at us, He doesn't see our sin. He sees the perfect righteousness of His Son, Jesus.*

TALK ABOUT IT (5 MIN)

Talk About It (46)

TEACHER: I'd like you to take a few minutes in your group to discuss these questions.

Questions with music and 5-minute timer (47)

Grades 1-3

- Jonathan offered his robe to David. What did David have to do for it to be his? **(accept it / reach out and take it)**
- Jesus offers us His robe of forgiveness. What do we have to do for it to be ours? **(accept it, take it)**
- How do we accept Jesus' robe of forgiveness? **(ask Him to be our Forgiver, Leader and Friend)**
 - **Forgiver – you're sorry for your sins and you ask Him to forgive you**
 - **Leader – you promise to follow and obey Him**
 - **Friend – you enter a friendship with Him**

Grades 4-5 (47)

- The verse says our very best is like a dirty rag in God's eyes. What do you think this means? **(there is nothing we can do on our own to earn God's forgiveness)**
- Jonathan offered his robe to David. What did David have to do for it to be his? **(accept it / reach out and take it)**
- Jesus offers us His robe of forgiveness. What do we have to do for it to be ours? **(accept it, take it)**
- How do we accept Jesus' robe of forgiveness? **(ask Him to be our Forgiver, Leader and Friend)**
 - **Forgiver – you're sorry for your sins and you ask Him to forgive you**
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- Why do you think God doesn't force us to accept His forgiveness, but instead gives us a choice? (He wants us to choose to love Him and be His friend, He won't force it on us, He has given us a free will to choose or reject His forgiveness)

PRAYER...TALKING AND LISTENING TO GOD (7 MIN)

Prayer...Talking and Listening to God with music (48)

TEACHER: Let's bow our heads. Place your cloths on the table in front of you if you haven't already. Cover the dirty cloth with the clean cloth.

TEACHER: Now think about this. Johnny offered Dave his baseball glove, didn't he? And Jonathan offered David his robe, didn't he? But if Dave had refused the glove or David had refused the robe, it wouldn't have been theirs, would it? What did they have to do for it to be theirs? They had to reach out and accept it, didn't they?

TEACHER: This is an example of accepting Jesus' forgiveness. He has already died on the cross to pay for your sins. He offers you His love and forgiveness. But for it to be yours...you have to reach out and accept it.

TEACHER: So...I want to ask you a question. Have you accepted Jesus robe of righteousness? Have you asked Him to cover your sins? Have you asked Him to be your Forgiver, Leader and Friend?

TEACHER: If you've already done that before, then raise your hand and thank God for being your friend.

(Let kids respond.)

TEACHER: That's awesome. That means your sins have been forgiven. Jesus will always be with you and will never leave you. That means you don't need to raise your hand again.

TEACHER: Some of you didn't raise your hand because you've never asked Jesus to come into your life. But know that you understand more about what it means...you want to enter a friendship with Jesus. If that's you and you'd like to know more about inviting Jesus to come into your life, then just raise your hand right now so we can pray for you.

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(Let kids respond and have group leaders write down the names of kids who raise their hands.)

TEACHER: That's awesome. We have a class called Starting Point that you can attend with your parents to learn more. When they come to pick you up, we'll let them know you raised your hand and invite them to bring you.

TEACHER: Now if you have other prayer requests, your group leader would love to hear them and pray with you. Go ahead and take some time to do that, then I will close us in prayer in a few minutes.

Give group leaders 3-4 minutes to take prayer requests and pray for the kids in their group and then close up front in prayer.

Transition slide (49)

DAVE & JOHNNY VIDEO 2 (2 MIN)

HOST: Let's check back and see how Dave and Johnny's story this week ends up.

Dave and Johnny Video 2 (50)

Transition slide (51)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 MIN)

Announcements Slide (52)

- 1) Come back next week to find out the crazy thing that is going to happen to Dave and Johnny. (53)
- 2) Bring a friend. (54)
- 3) Home Challenge Paper (55)
- 4) Coloring contest (56)
 - there is a coloring sheet on the back of your home challenge paper
 - color it this week and bring back next weekend to enter the coloring contest
 - everyone who brings it back will get a candy prize and we will be displaying your work for everyone to see
 - we will also pick 3 winners each week to win a special prize

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HOME RUN GROUP AWARD (2 MIN)

Home Run award with fun music (57)

HOST: Okay...it's time to give away the Home Run Award. Everyone did a great job and it's really, really close. I want to hear you say this month's key truth again to help us decide. Here we go...

Attention grabber & key truth – Jesus is my best friend...on Him I can depend (58)

(Have kids repeat a few times.)

Home Run Award with fun music (59)

HOST: Okay...the group that gets the Home Run Award today for talking and singing and listening and playing is...the.... _____group!!!

(Recognize group and give them the home run award.)

Transition slide (60)

REVIEW GAME: OREOBALL

Oreoball with music (61)

HOST: Okay...let's see who was listening today! We're going to play a game called "Oreoball!" Let's play boys vs. girls.

Oreoball Game Instructions:

- *Have 2 pieces of clear, thin plexiglass (approx. 24" x 15")*
- *Take one side off 4 Oreos and stick them onto the plexiglass to form a baseball diamond. (do both pieces of plexiglass ahead of time)*
- *Have 2 chairs up front facing the audience.*
- *Bring up one boy & one girl and have them sit in the chairs.*
- *Give both a plexiglass and have them hold it with the Oreo side facing them.*
- *They can rest it on their legs or you can bring up someone to help them hold it if needed.*
- *Ask a question to the girls and have someone in the audience answer. If they get it correct, give the person in the audience who answered it an Oreo.*

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- The person on stage will then eat the 1st base Oreo off the plexiglass but they cannot use their hands. Hold up the plexiglass so the kids can see their face smushing against the plexiglass. This will make it funny to watch.
- If the team misses the question, the question gets passed over to the other team to answer.
- The first team that makes it all the way around the bases by eating all 4 Oreos wins.
- Have napkins, wet wipes, etc. for those who need it. Also, clean the plexiglass if you are re-using it.

Questions:

1. Who were the two friends in the Bible that we learned about today? (**David and Jonathan**) (62-63)
2. Jonathan gave David his robe. How is this like what Jesus gave us? (**Jesus gives us His robe of righteousness / forgiveness**) (64-65)
3. Johnny offered Dave his baseball glove. What did Dave have to do for the glove to be his? (**had to accept it**) How is this like what we have to do for Jesus' gift of forgiveness to be ours? (**we have to accept it**) (66-67)
4. Fill in the blank. There is a friend that sticks closer than a _____? Proverbs 18:24 (**brother**) (68-69)
5. What did David do for a living? (**shepherd**) (70-71)
6. Where did Jonathan live? (**king's palace**) (72-73)
7. Where did Dave move from in the story? (**Indiana**) (74-75)
8. Fill in the blank. Jesus is my best friend...on Him I can _____. (**depend**) (76-77)
9. When you invite Jesus into your life you ask Him to be your Leader, Forgiver and _____. (**Friend**) (78-79)
10. What does the Bible say our very best is like if we are trying to use it to get into heaven? (**dirty shirt or rag**) (80-81)
11. Fill in the blank. There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs _____. (**18:24**) (82-83)
12. Where did Dave go in the story to try to make a friend? (**baseball field**) (84-85)
13. What happened to Dave when Johnny hit the ball? (**got hit in the face**) (86-87)
14. What does it mean to ask Jesus to be your Leader? (**you will follow and obey Him**) (88-89)
15. What's the name of the class you attend with your parents to learn more about following Jesus? (**Starting Point**) (90-91)
16. In the Bible, was David the youngest or oldest boy in his family? (**youngest**) (92-93)
17. Fill in the blank. Jesus is my best _____...on Him I can depend. (**friend**) (94-95)
18. During our offering time, we learned that when we give God will do what? (**overflow us with blessings**) (96-97)

Unlikely Friends

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19. What does it mean to ask Jesus to be your Forgiver? (**you are sorry for your sins and you ask Him to forgive you**) (98-99)

20. Fill in the blank. There is a friend who _____ closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24 (**sticks**) (100-101)

Transition slide (102)

BONUS ACTIVITY DURING PICK-UP: ANIMAL – CANDY - MOVIE

Animal – Candy – Movie with music (103)

- The purpose of this game is to give group leaders another opportunity to connect with the kids in their group and build relationships.
- Group leader points to one of the kids and says either "Animal," "Candy," or "Movie."
- The chosen child must shout out his or her name and then say come up with the name of something that fits the category before the leader counts to ten.
- Example – if the leader says “Animal” the child would say their name and “lion.”
- No repeating.
- If the player does not respond in time, he/she is out.
- The game continues until only one player remains.
- Continue playing rounds during parent pick-up.

PARENT PICK-UP

Parents – ask your child what their two cloths mean. (104)

- Connect briefly with each parent.
- Make sure parents know about Starting Point if their child raised his or her hand.
- Invite the child to come back to your group next week.
- Please remain with your group until your last child is picked up.

Slide that stops music (105)