

Kid's Slot – Aug.21st – 27th, 2011



“BFF or Not?”



OVERVIEW: The children will learn to choose their friends wisely...and to be a good friend to your friends!

PREPARATION: You will need paper and pencils for each child.

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: Proverbs 17:17

ICEBREAKER: Ask: Have you ever gotten too close to the stove that you've gotten burned? What did you learn from that?

READ: “Friends Forever?” Bible Story

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. **What was Darcy and Jamie's favorite thing to talk about?** (Puppies!)
2. **Where did the girls go that afternoon?** (To the pet store to look at puppies!)
3. **What happened next?** (Jamie took a black puppy named Roscoe and put it in her backpack and walked out of the pet store without paying for him.)
4. **What did Darcy tell Jamie?** (Not to do it – it was a bad idea – it was stealing!)
5. **Why did Jamie try to blame Darcy?** (Because she didn't want to get in trouble – but eventually, she confessed and told the truth!)

Bible Memory Verse: “A friend loves at all times.”
Proverbs 17:17

ACTIVITY: “POP UP”

Assign one word of the verse to each child including the Bible reference. If you have a lot of children, simply give two children the same word or number: (stereo!). Have the children to squat down. Tell them that when you touch their head, they are to jump up and loudly quote their word to the verse. Then, line the children up to where the words are in the correct order. Go through the line several times until the verse is recited smoothly.

RETURN: Return to the Life Group and recite the Bible Memory Verse—Pop-Up style. Explain a bit about the story and how we need to be careful that we aren't influenced by our friends that bring us down, but who can build us up and lead us to be more like Jesus! The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time!

Additional Activity: “Getting to Know You”

On a piece of paper, have the children write down the name of the city in which they were born. Also write down one thing about them that no one else knows. (Ex: “I'm afraid of roaches” or “I love spinach” or “Math is my favorite subject”...) Have them sign their name. Read and share with the group what the children have written. This is a good way for the children to learn more about each other.



“Friends Forever???”

Have you woken up to the yummy smell of bacon being fried? Oh, boy – bacon! Who doesn't LOVE bacon! The smell creeps under your door and into your room and you jump out of bed, hungry already. The problem with bacon is that all day long – you can still smell bacon in your house...maybe even on your clothes or in your hair! If you leave your house, and come back in, guess what smell greets you when you open the door? The smell of BACON! It sort of stays with you – even when you're finished enjoying it – it's still there!

Well, here's a story about a girl who was real smart at lots of things – but not so smart at choosing her friends. Listen to this story and you'll see why:

Darcy loved puppies...she had pictures on her wall and coloring books filled with pages and pages of puppies. She had stuffed animals, wall posters of puppies. One day, Darcy met a new friend at school. Guess what – SHE loved puppies, too! They had so much fun talking about puppies and telling stories about puppies that they ended up being BFF almost instantly! Isn't it good to have a best friend that likes the same things as you do? Darcy and Jamie were BFF!

One Saturday morning, Jamie called Darcy and asked her if she wanted to go to the pet store to look at puppies that people could adopt from the animal shelter. After checking with her mom, Darcy was so excited to be going. The pet store was packed with people and lots of open cages filled with puppies. Darcy and Jamie had fun holding and playing with all the puppies. Their favorite one was a little black puppy they named Roscoe...he was so sweet and fell asleep right in their lap, while all the other puppies yelped and barked. Jamie wanted that puppy in the worst way! She told Darcy that if her mom wouldn't let her take Roscoe home, she was going to put him in backpack and take him home anyway. Darcy didn't think that was a good idea...she said it was stealing - but that didn't stop Jamie. When no one was looking, Jamie scooped up the sleeping puppy and put him in her backpack – done!!! And no one saw her do it! Safe and sound, she would take that puppy home and after her mom spent just one day with him she would be convinced that Jamie should keep him! Darcy didn't agree one bit!

When mom finally finished her shopping, the girls walked excitedly to the door and out they walked! NO ONE saw that Roscoe was missing and he was still sound-asleep in Jamie's backpack –

until...the store manager came running out to the van. “STOP”, he yelled! “Give me back that black puppy!” Jamie's mom didn't know what the man was talking about and told him that they didn't have any puppy – that he must be mistaken! The manager insisted that the black puppy was missing and that one of her girls took him! Mom again said that he was being ridiculous – asking the man to prove his words! Slowly, the man went over to Jamie and asked her to open up her backpack. And slowly, Jamie did – out popped Roscoe's cute round head and two brown eyes – and his pink tongue going a mile a minute!

“Darcy put him in my backpack” yelled Jamie! “It was her idea!” Darcy didn't know what to say - she reminded Jamie that it was HER idea and how she thought it was a bad one, but once Jamie started crying, Jamie's mom believe her daughter and not Darcy! Darcy felt terrible and tried to say it wasn't her, but it was too late. “Wait until your mom finds out, Darcy...that you stole a puppy...she won't be proud of what you did!”

“But...but...I didn't – it was Jamie's idea and Jamie's backpack...ask her!” All Jamie would do was cry and tuck her head into her mom's shoulder. Darcy knew no one believe her. Jamie reached into her backpack and returned Roscoe to the pet store manager. “I'm sorry about the puppy...here you go! I'm sure my friend was only going to borrow him and bring him right back!”

Darcy couldn't wait until she got home to tell the REAL truth to her mom – who thankfully believed her daughter and not Jamie or Jamie's mother. Mom reminded Darcy how important it is to choose your friends wisely...and she and Jamie became friends super-fast...before she got to know much about her. Darcy decided she would forgive Jamie and still be her friend at school – but she was going to be much more careful. Friends shouldn't have to be careful to be friends – but a good friend always forgives and remains loyal – no matter what!

That afternoon, Jamie and her mom came over and Jamie did confess that she lied about Darcy and Roscoe. Darcy was relieved and so was Jamie. They decided to be honest with each other and always be faithful – and tell the truth! Whew!!! Neither girl got to keep Roscoe, but restoring their friendship was the most important thing they could do! The girls hugged and cried and were so glad to be friends again – and could trust each other again!