

BEING A GOOD FRIEND

This month we are learning what it means to be a good friend. Friendship is a wonderful gift from God, but we must choose our friends wisely. We must also treat our friends with the kindness and gentleness that God has shown us, even when we argue or disagree with them.



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Read this story from 1 Samuel 20 about the friendship between David and Jonathan.

NIRV The Illustrated Holy Bible for Kids

1 SAMUEL 19 – 20

After David had run away and escaped, he went to Samuel at Ramah. He told him everything Saul had done to him. Then David and Samuel went to Naioth and stayed there. Saul was told, "David is in Naioth at Ramah." So Saul sent some men to capture him. When they got there, they saw a group of prophets who were prophesying. Samuel was standing there as their leader. Then the Spirit of God came on Saul's men. So they also began to prophesy. Saul was told about it. So he sent some more men. They began to prophesy too. Saul sent some men a third time. And they also began to prophesy. Finally, Saul decided to go to Ramah himself. He went to the large well at Seku. He asked some people, "Where are Samuel and David?"

"Over in Naioth at Ramah," they said.

So Saul went to Naioth at Ramah. But the Spirit of God even came on him. He walked along and prophesied until he came to Naioth. There he took off his clothes. Then he also prophesied in front of Samuel. He lay there without his clothes on all that day and night. That's why people say, "Is Saul also one of the prophets?"

David and Jonathan

1 SAMUEL 20

Start
Reading
Here

David was in Naioth at Ramah. He ran away from there to where Jonathan was. He asked him, "What have I done? What crime have I committed? I haven't done anything to harm your father. So why is he trying to kill me?"

"That will never happen!" Jonathan replied. "You aren't going to die! My father doesn't do anything at all without letting me know. So why would he hide this from me? He isn't going to kill you!"

But David strongly disagreed. He said, "Your father knows very well that you are pleased with me. He has said to himself, 'I don't want Jonathan to know I'm planning to kill David. If he finds out, he'll be very sad.' But I'm very close to being killed. And that's just as sure as the LORD and you are alive."

Jonathan said to David, "I'll do anything you want me to do for you."

So David said, "Tomorrow is the time for the New Moon feast. I'm supposed to eat with the king. But let me go and hide in the field. I'll stay there until the evening of the day after tomorrow. Your father might miss me. If he does, then tell him, 'David begged me to let him hurry home to Bethlehem. A yearly sacrifice is being offered there for his whole family group.' Your father might say, 'That's all right.' If he does, it will mean I'm safe. But he might become very angry. If he does, you can be sure he's made up his mind to harm me. Please be kind to me. You have made a covenant with me in front of the LORD. If I'm guilty, kill me yourself! Don't hand me over to your father!"

"I would never do that!" Jonathan said. "Suppose I had even the smallest clue that my father had made up his mind to harm you. Then I would tell you."

David asked, "Who will tell me if your father answers you in a mean way?"

"Come on," Jonathan said. "Let's go out to the field." So they went there together.

Then Jonathan spoke to David. He said, "I promise you that I'll find out what my father is planning to do. I'll find out by this time the day after tomorrow. The LORD, the God of Israel, is my witness. Suppose my father has kind feelings toward you. Then I'll send you a message and let you know. But suppose he wants to harm you. And I don't let you know about it. Suppose I don't help you get away in peace. Then may the LORD punish me greatly. May he be with you, just as he has been with my father. But always be kind to me, just as the LORD is. Be kind to me as long



David and Jonathan Are Good Friends

as I live. Then I won't be killed. And never stop being kind to my family. Don't stop even when the LORD has cut off every one of your enemies from the face of the earth."

So Jonathan made a covenant of friendship with David and his family. He said, "May the LORD hold David's enemies responsible for what they've done." Jonathan had David promise his friendship again because he loved him. In fact, Jonathan loved David just as he loved himself.

Then Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow is the time for the New Moon feast. You will be missed, because your seat at the table will be empty. Go to the place where you hid when all this trouble began. Go there the day after tomorrow, when evening is approaching. There's a stone out there called Ezel. Wait by it. I'll shoot three arrows to one side of the stone. I'll pretend I'm practicing my shooting. Then I'll send a boy out there. I'll tell him, 'Go and find the arrows.' Suppose I say to him, 'The arrows are on this side of you. Bring them here.' Then come. That will mean you are safe. You won't be in any danger. And that's just as sure as the LORD is alive. But suppose I tell the boy, 'The arrows are far beyond you.' Then go. That will mean the LORD is sending you away. And remember what we talked about. Remember that the LORD is a witness between you and me forever."

So David hid in the field. When the time for the New Moon feast came, the king sat down to eat. He sat in his usual place by the wall. Jonathan sat across from him. Abner sat next to Saul. But David's place was empty. Saul didn't say anything that day. He said to himself, "Something must have happened to David to make him 'unclean.' That must be why he isn't here." But the next day, David's place was empty again. It was the second day of the month. Finally, Saul spoke to his son Jonathan. He said, "Why hasn't the son of Jesse come to the meal? He hasn't been here yesterday or today."

Jonathan replied, "David begged me to let him go to Bethlehem. He said, 'Let me go. Our family is offering a sacrifice in the town. My brother has ordered me to be there. Are you pleased with me? If you are, let me go and see my brothers.' That's why he hasn't come to eat at your table."

Saul became very angry with Jonathan. He said to him, "You are an evil son. You have refused to obey me. I know that you are on the side of Jesse's son. You should be ashamed of that. And your mother should be ashamed of having a son like you. You will never be king as long as Jesse's son lives on this earth. And you will never have a kingdom either. So send someone to bring the son of Jesse to me. He must die!"

"Why do you want to put him to death?" Jonathan asked his father. "What has he done?" But Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father wanted to kill David.

So Jonathan got up from the table. He was very angry. On that second day of the feast, he refused to eat. He was very sad that his father was treating David so badly.

The next morning Jonathan went out to the field to meet David. He took a young boy with him. He said to the boy, "Run and find the arrows I shoot." As the boy ran, Jonathan shot an arrow far beyond him. The boy came to the place where Jonathan's arrow had fallen. Then Jonathan shouted to him, "The arrow went far beyond you, didn't it?" He continued, "Hurry up! Run fast! Don't stop!" The boy picked up the arrow and returned to his master. The boy didn't know what was going on. Only Jonathan and David knew. Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy. He told him, "Go back to town. Take the weapons with you."

After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone. He bowed down in front of Jonathan with his face to the ground. He did it three times. Then they kissed each other and cried. But David cried more than Jonathan did.

Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace. In the name of the LORD we've promised to be friends. We have said, 'The LORD is a witness between you and me. He's a witness between your children and my children forever.'" Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

End
Reading
Here

David at Nob

1 SAMUEL 21:1-9

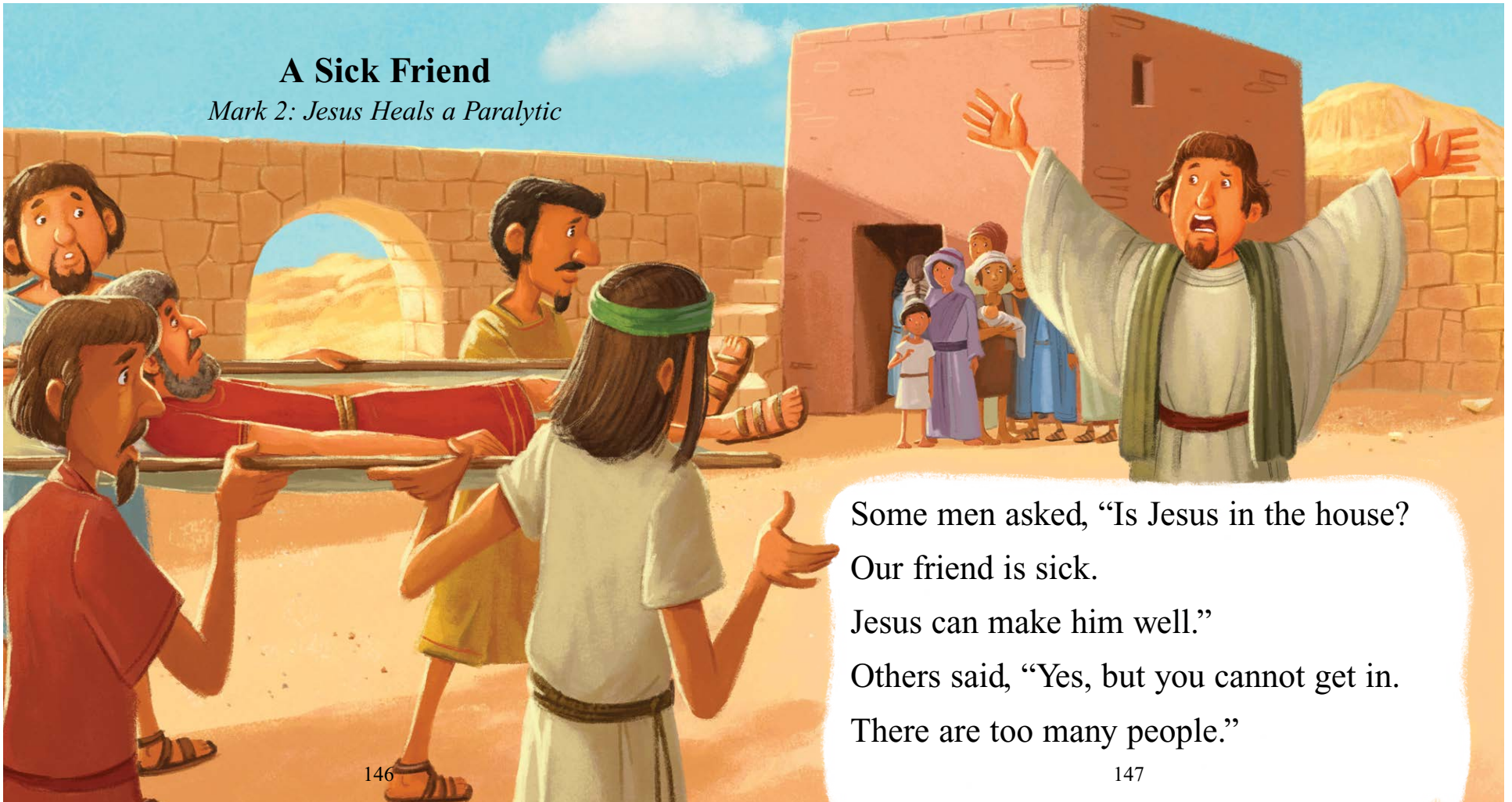
David went to Ahimelek the priest at Nob. Ahimelek trembled with fear when he met him. He asked David, "Why are you alone? Why isn't anyone with you?" David answered Ahimelek the priest, "The king gave me a special job to do. He said to me, 'I don't want anyone to know what I'm sending you to do. So don't say anything about it.' I've told my men to meet me at a certain place. Do you have anything for us to eat? Give me five loaves of bread, or anything else you can find."

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This story tells about some men who wanted Jesus to help their friend so badly that they lowered him through a roof to see the Messiah.

A Sick Friend

Mark 2: Jesus Heals a Paralytic



Some men asked, “Is Jesus in the house?
Our friend is sick.
Jesus can make him well.”
Others said, “Yes, but you cannot get in.
There are too many people.”



There were many people in the house.
 The men could not get close to Jesus.
 They said, “We will go
 in another way.”

148



So they put their friend down a hole
 in the roof.
 They said to Jesus, “Please, help
 our friend. He is sick.”

149



Jesus was happy to help their sick friend.
He said, “Get up, you are well.”

150



The man got up.
He was cured.
The man and his friends were happy.
They said, “Thank you! Thank you!”

151

Friends are so much fun to spend time with, but we won't agree with them about everything. This devotional talks about how we should act when friends have arguments.

660

PSALM 37

- ⁷ Be still and wait patiently for the LORD to act.
Don't be upset when other people succeed.
Don't be upset when they carry out their evil plans.
- ⁸ Turn away from anger and don't give in to wrath.
Don't be upset, because that only leads to evil.
- ⁹ Sinful people will be destroyed.
But those who put their hope in the LORD will receive the land.
- ¹⁰ In a little while, there won't be any more sinners.
Even if you look for them, you won't be able to find them.
- ¹¹ But those who are free of pride will be given the land.
They will enjoy peace and success.
- ¹² Sinful people make plans to harm those who do what is right.
They grind their teeth at them.
- ¹³ But the Lord laughs at those who do evil.
He knows the day is coming when he will judge them.
- ¹⁴ Sinners pull out their swords.
They bend their bows.

- They want to kill poor and needy people.
They plan to murder those who lead honest lives.
- ¹⁵ But they will be killed by their own swords.
Their own bows will be broken.
- ¹⁶ Those who do what is right may have very little.
But it's better than the wealth of many sinners.
- ¹⁷ The power of those who are evil will be broken.
But the LORD takes good care of those who do what is right.
- ¹⁸ Those who are without blame spend their days in the LORD's care.
What he has given them will last forever.
- ¹⁹ When trouble comes to them, they will have what they need.
When there is little food in the land, they will still have plenty.
- ²⁰ But sinful people will die.
The LORD's enemies may be like flowers in the field.
But they will be swallowed up.
They will disappear like smoke.

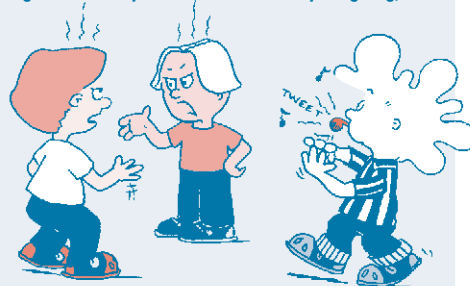
KIDS' QuEstiOn

WHY CAN'T FRIENDS JUST GET ALONG INSTEAD OF FIGHTING AND ARGUING WITH EACH OTHER?

You'd think that friends would get along great all the time, but conflicts happen because everyone has ups and downs, and sometimes a friend is just in a bad mood. No two people agree on everything all the time. When people disagree, they should talk it through and work together to solve the problem instead of fighting about it. If your friends are always arguing, you can be a good example and help them resolve the issue. You can also set a good example for your friends by hanging out with kids who get along.



CHECKOUT
Psalm 37:8



Sometimes our friends are hurting or need our help. This devotional teaches us how to be a good friend to those who need us, even when it makes us uncomfortable.

February 13

Putting Yourself Out

Clara hated the hospital smell, but as she walked down the hall, the nurses waved at her. Clara waved back.

Words to Treasure

But always be kind to me, just as the LORD is. Be kind to me as long as I live.

1 Samuel 20:14

Every day after school, her mom dropped her off at the hospital to visit her best friend, Becky. Becky had been very sick for weeks and weeks. But every day Clara came to cheer her up with get-well notes and other things from school. Clara had even dropped out of swimming so she could visit every day.

She made sure she had a smile on before she entered the room. “Becky! You wouldn’t believe what happened today at lunch—a food fight!” Becky sat up in bed waiting for the news. Becky’s mom gave Clara a smile as she left to give the girls some friend time.

Sometimes being a good friend means being there for that person when things are hard. Friendship isn’t a someday thing; it is an everyday thing—no matter what. To have good friends you also have to be a good friend.



Prince Jonathan was best friends with David. You could say their friendship was legendary. Jonathan’s father King Saul became *extremely* jealous of David and tried to kill him. But Jonathan managed to love both his dad and his friend and keep them apart. Cool friend, cool story—check it out in 1 Samuel 19–20.

This devotional is from Proverbs 17:9, and it teaches us why we shouldn't say bad things about others.

Proverbs 17

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- Anyone who is happy when others suffer will be punished.
- ⁶Grandchildren are like a crown to older people.
And children are proud of their parents.
- ⁷It isn't proper for foolish people to brag.
And it certainly isn't proper for rulers to tell lies!
- ⁸Money buys favors for those who give it.
No matter where they turn, they succeed.
- ⁹Those who erase a sin by forgiving it show love.
But those who talk about it come between close friends.
- ¹⁰A person who understands what is right learns more from just a warning than a foolish person learns from 100 strokes with a whip.
- ¹¹An evil person never wants to obey.
An official who shows no mercy will be sent against him.
- ¹²It is better to meet a bear whose cubs have been stolen than to meet a foolish person who is acting foolishly.
- ¹³Evil will never leave the house of anyone who pays back evil for good.
- ¹⁴Starting to argue is like making a crack in a dam.
So drop the matter before a fight breaks out.
- ¹⁵The LORD hates two things.
He hates it when the guilty are set free.
He also hates it when those who aren't guilty are punished.
- ¹⁶What good is money in the hands of a foolish person?
He doesn't want to become wise.
- ¹⁷A friend loves at all times.
He is there to help when trouble comes.
- ¹⁸A man who has little sense agrees to pay what other people owe.
It isn't wise to put up money for others.
- ¹⁹The one who loves to argue loves to sin.
The one who builds a high gate is just asking to be destroyed.
- ²⁰If your heart is twisted, you won't succeed.
If your tongue tells lies, you will get into trouble.
- ²¹It is sad to have a foolish child.
The parents of a foolish person have no joy.
- ²²A cheerful heart makes you healthy.
But a broken spirit dries you up.
- ²³Anyone who does wrong accepts favors in secret.
Then he turns what is right into wrong.
- ²⁴Anyone who understands what is right keeps wisdom in view.
But the eyes of a foolish person look everywhere else.

Talking About Others

Did a friend ever talk about you behind your back? Did this person say something bad about you to someone else? It hurts when that happens. Proverbs 16:28 says that talking about others can break up friends.

Here's a way to save a friendship. Read Proverbs 17:9. It says you can "erase a sin by forgiving it." That means you should only say something good about someone else. You should forget the bad things. Try that when you hear someone talk about other people. Don't listen to the bad. Don't pass those words along. You'll help save a friendship. And your friends will be able to trust you too.

Live It!

Proverbs 17:9



This coloring page helps us see what kindness and friendship look like.



Jesus Talks about Kindness: Luke 14:1-14

Key Verse: Always try to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:15

Jesus' closest friends and followers were called his disciples. Here is a fun word search to learn more about the twelve men who followed Jesus.

JESUS'S DISCIPLES

Can you find all the words in this word search?

T H F W M Z A A F N I W Q Y R P W W X
 U H T Q F G N C I L Z M J U O V J F A
 O F O S A D U J S N V K M D T D L I C
 C O W M R Y J O H N B R A X C S B S M
 Y L B E A Y S P E A J J T R E T F H G
 D L W R R S H Y R G I C T P L U N E Q
 K O L F I I H T S V X Q H G L D T R F
 S W L C L P H S O J E I I O O E O M A
 R E T I T O B S F B M K A T C N L E P
 E R P P L T I V M B Q A S Y X T A N O
 T S Y O V M E R E K A S T O A S E E S
 E U M N O Z S Z N H I F E T T Z Z P T
 P E D N G J W Z G A K V P M H Z P R L
 W Y S E L P I C S I D A S B A E V C E
 Z U S U E A D D A H T L T K M J W J S

Andrew
 apostles
 Bartholomew
 disciples
 fishermen

fishers of men
 followers
 James
 John
 Judas

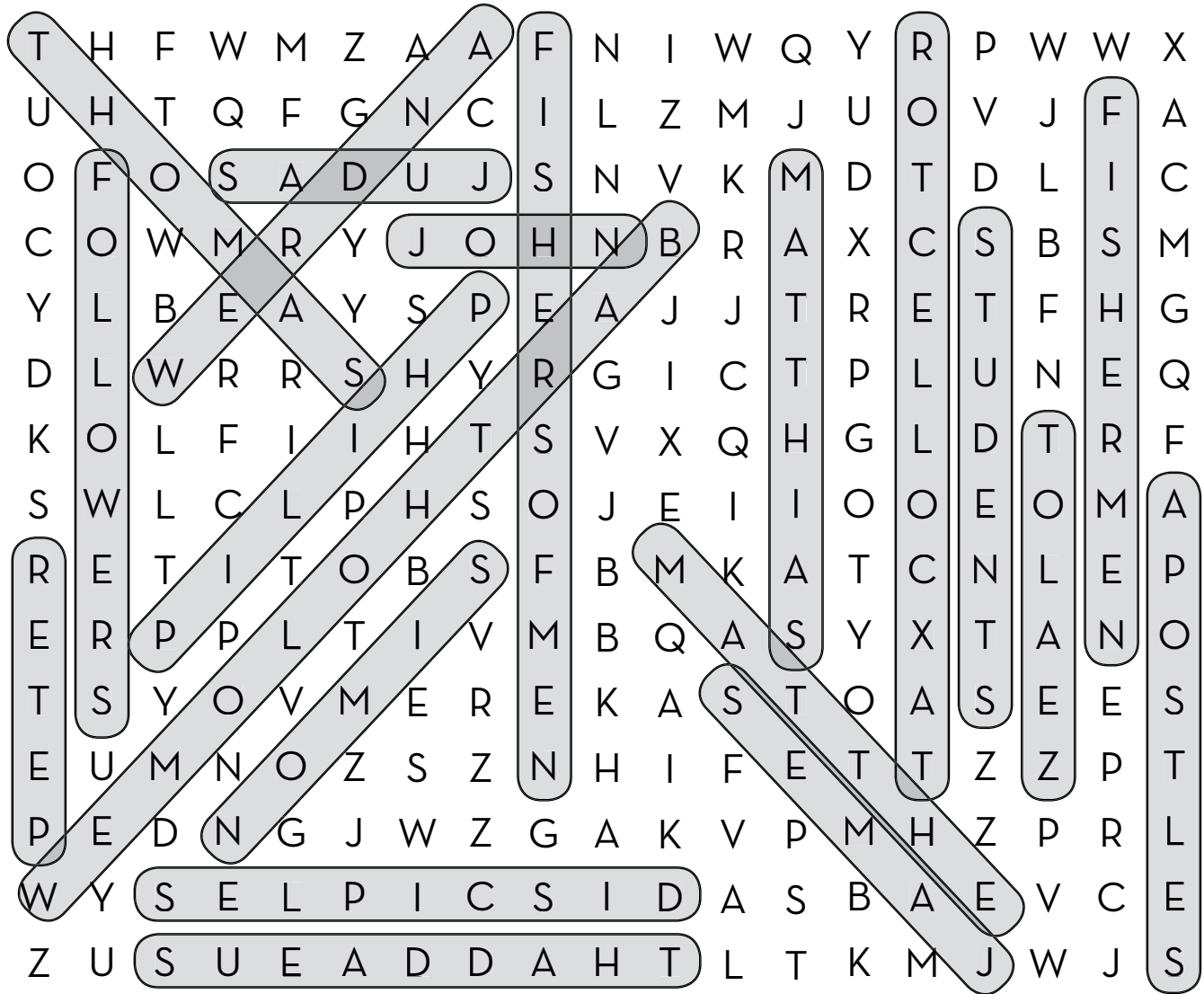
Matthew
 Matthias
 Peter
 Philip
 Simon

students
 tax collector
 Thaddaeus
 Thomas
 zealot

Jesus's Disciples Answer Key

JESUS'S DISCIPLES *Answer Key*

Can you find all the words in this word search?



Andrew
apostles
Bartholomew
disciples
fishermen

fishers of men
followers
James
John
Judas

Matthew
Matthias
Peter
Philip
Simon

students
tax collector
Thaddaeus
Thomas
zealot

There are many ways we can extend friendship to others. This fill-in-the-blank puzzle helps us remember how we should treat each other with kindness and love.

HOW WE SHOULD TREAT EACH OTHER

.....

Choose one of the words or phrases below each sentence to fill in the blank(s) in that sentence.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. _____ one another (Romans 12). Honor / Dishonor | 13. _____ one another deeply, from the heart (1 Peter 1). Love / Hate |
| 2. Live in _____ with one another (Romans 12). disharmony / harmony | 14. Offer _____ to one another (1 Peter 4). inhospitality / hospitality |
| 3. _____ passing judgment on one another (Romans 14). Stop / Start | 15. Let us not _____ each other (Galatians 5). envy / bless |
| 4. _____ one another (Romans 15). Accept / Reject | 16. _____ each other's burdens (Galatians 6). Ignore / Carry |
| 5. _____ one another (Hebrews 3). Discourage / Encourage | 17. Do not _____ each other (Colossians 3). lie to / be honest with |
| 6. _____ one another (Galatians 5). Rule / Serve | 18. _____ each other (Colossians 3). Get upset with / Bear with |
| 7. Be _____ to one another (Ephesians 4). kind / unkind | 19. _____ each other _____ (1 Thessalonians 5). Tear ... down / Build ... up |
| 8. Be _____ to one another (Ephesians 4). uncompassionate / compassionate | 20. Live _____ with each other (1 Thessalonians 5). in peace / at war |
| 9. _____ one another (Colossians 3). Forgive / Don't forgive | 21. Do what is _____ for each other (1 Thessalonians 5). bad / good |
| 10. Spur one another on toward _____ (Hebrews 10). love / hatred | 22. _____ your sins _____ each other (James 5). Confess ... to / Hide ... from |
| 11. Do not _____ one another (James 4). slander / compliment | 23. _____ each other (James 5). Forget about / Pray for |
| 12. Don't _____ one another (James 5). support / grumble against | |

Answer key for How We Should Treat Each Other fill-in-the-blank puzzle.

HOW WE SHOULD TREAT EACH OTHER *Answer key*

Choose one of the words or phrases below each sentence to fill in the blank(s) in that sentence.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. _____ one another (Romans 12). HONOR / Dishonor | 13. _____ one another deeply, from the heart (1 Peter 1). LOVE / Hate |
| 2. Live in _____ with one another (Romans 12). disharmony / HARMONY | 14. Offer _____ to one another (1 Peter 4). inhospitality / HOSPITALITY |
| 3. _____ passing judgment on one another (Romans 14). STOP / Start | 15. Let us not _____ each other (Galatians 5). ENVY / bless |
| 4. _____ one another (Romans 15). ACCEPT / Reject | 16. _____ each other's burdens (Galatians 6). Ignore / CARRY |
| 5. _____ one another (Hebrews 3). Discourage / ENCOURAGE | 17. Do not _____ each other (Colossians 3). LIE TO / be honest with |
| 6. _____ one another (Galatians 5). Rule / SERVE | 18. _____ each other (Colossians 3). Get upset with / BEAR WITH |
| 7. Be _____ to one another (Ephesians 4). KIND / unkind | 19. _____ each other _____ (1 Thessalonians 5). Tear ... down / BUILD ... UP |
| 8. Be _____ to one another (Ephesians 4). uncompassionate / COMPASSIONATE | 20. Live _____ with each other (1 Thessalonians 5). IN PEACE / at war |
| 9. _____ one another (Colossians 3). FORGIVE / Don't forgive | 21. Do what is _____ for each other (1 Thessalonians 5). bad / GOOD |
| 10. Spur one another on toward _____ (Hebrews 10). LOVE / hatred | 22. _____ your sins _____ each other (James 5). CONFESS ... TO / Hide ... from |
| 11. Do not _____ one another (James 4). SLANDER / compliment | 23. _____ each other (James 5). Forget about / PRAY FOR |
| 12. Don't _____ one another (James 5). support / GRUMBLE AGAINST | |