Jesus Is Our Friend

Engage: Page 45

- Invite your child to discuss friendship. **Ask:** What makes a good friend? How do friends help each other? (Answers will vary.)
- Read aloud the session title and the song title. Lead your child in singing and clapping along to “If You’re Happy and You Know It.” **Say:** Now let’s learn new words for this song. Read aloud the lyrics as your child follows along. Then sing it together.
- **Ask:** How is Jesus your friend? (He listens to me. He loves me.) Pray aloud the prayer together. Then pray **Amen.**

Explore: Pages 46–47

- Hand a red paper heart to your child. **Say:** I want to share my love with you. Ask them to repeat the words and action with you. **Say:** Jesus connects us all with love.
- Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 46. Have your child point to the word Jesus. Help him or her find it in the Glossary and discuss the definition. **Ask:** Who is Jesus? (Jesus is the Son of God.) **Say:** Jesus passes God the Father’s love to you. Read aloud the directions. Have your child trace the arrows and write his or her name as you point to the flowchart.
- Read aloud the Reading God’s Word feature. **Say:** Jesus loves children. He invites you to talk to him anytime.
- Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 47 and have your child follow along. **Say:** Jesus is our friend. We want to follow him and be like him. Read aloud the directions and demonstrate how to color the marked parts. When your child has finished coloring, read aloud the previously hidden word (Jesus).
- Read aloud the A Friend of God feature. Talk about saints with whom you are familiar. **Ask:** Why do you think saints follow Jesus? (They want to be like Jesus. They want to live with Jesus in heaven someday.)
Art Exploration: Explore Art Print 8 Blackline Master

- Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of two friends playing or hanging out together.
- **Ask:** What do you see in this picture? Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including where the friends are, what they are doing, and what they might be talking about.
- **Say:** Jesus is our friend. We can talk to him anytime out loud or in the quiet of our heart.
- Display the Art Print Blackline Master for Session 8. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- Read aloud the section Jesus Calls Us to Be Friends. **Ask:** Why do you think God gives us friends? (Friends give us comfort. We have fun with our friends. Our friends love us, and we love them.) **Say:** God gave us our best friend, Jesus, who loves us just the way we are.
- Read aloud the section Friendship Flower. Help your child complete the activity. Display the completed craft in your home.
- Talk about a pledge your child can make when he or she is with friends. (Example: I pledge to use kind words, I pledge to share what I have, and I pledge to help a friend who is sad.)
- Invite your child to make a handprint with finger paint on a sheet of paper. When the handprint is dry, help your child write his or her Friendship Pledge in the center of the handprint. Display the Friendship Pledge in your home.

Reflect: Pages 48–49

- Together look at page 48. **Ask:** What is this boy doing? (praying) Explain that prayer is an opportunity to speak to Jesus heart-to-heart.
- **Say:** Use your imagination during this prayer time. Picture yourself sitting with Jesus. **Ask:** What would you say to him? What would he say to you? Invite your child to follow along as you read aloud page 48. Then together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- Give your child a hug. **Say:** Jesus loves you and is always with you. Read aloud the title and the sentences on page 49. **Say:** Jesus wants all children to know he is their friend. Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity. **Say:** Each time you look at this picture, it will remind you that you can talk with Jesus anytime.

Respond: Page 50

- Read aloud the Faith Summary. Have your child trace the word Jesus. **Say:** We have talked about Jesus’ love. We can be more like Jesus by showing love to others.
- Invite your child to pray silently as you pray aloud. **Say:** Jesus, help me be more like you so that I can be a good friend to others. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- Read aloud the words from the story in With My Family and have your child say the picture words. Use the Picture Glossary on pages 206–207 if needed. Invite your child to answer the question at the end of the story.