LESSON 3: A FRIENDSHIP MADE IN HEAVEN

COUNTDOWN VIDEO (DVD)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

OPENING VIDEO TRANSMISSION (DVD)

MEMORY VERSE

GAME TIME: FRIENDS STICK TOGETHER

SUPPLEMENTARY 1: REAL DEAL: HARRIET TUBMAN

OFFERING: BE READY

PRAISE AND WORSHIP (DVD)

LESSON VIDEO TRANSMISSION (DVD: LENGTH—2:55)

WORD TIME: A FRIENDSHIP MADE IN HEAVEN

SUPPLEMENTARY 2: STORYBOOK THEATER: PUPPY LOVE

CLOSING VIDEO TRANSMISSION (DVD)

PRAYER, ANNOUNCEMENTS, HANDOUTS, DINNERTIME DEVOTIONAL HANDOUT (CD-ROM)

GAME REPRISE (IF TIME ALLOWS)

Memory Verse: *For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.*

Luke 19:10

GAME TIME

FRIENDS STICK TOGETHER

Suggested Time: 10-12 minutes

Memory Verse: For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.
Luke 19:10

Supplies: Several large balloons, 1 Large feather

Prior to Game:

- Inflate balloons to near capacity. Place the feather on a table or chair at front of room.

Game Instructions:

Ask **Hello, cadets! Has anyone heard the saying, "Birds of a feather stick together"? And does anyone know what this saying means?**

- *(Allow the cadets to share and discuss their ideas.)*
- Those are some interesting thoughts, cadets!
- We can think of it like this: When friends are devoted to each other, they stick together. It's important to ask God to help you choose good friends. If your friend shares a great experience with you, it's important to be excited and happy with them. If your friend experiences a challenging or sad situation, it's important to support and encourage them.
- In our activity today, we'll practice what it means to be birds of a feather who stick together, and we'll discover who can stick together the best!
- *(Allow the Superkids to choose a partner or count off 1-2-1-2, etc.).*
- *(Have the kids stand back-to-back and gently support a balloon between them.)*
- *(Place the feather on a stand or table behind the finish line.)*

Game Goal:

- Be the first team to walk across the finish line, without touching the balloon with their hands or arms. If the balloon is dropped, the team must return to the starting line and begin again. When a team reaches the finish line, they must grab the feather and shout, "We stick together!"

Final Word:

Ask **"What did it take to play this game?" and "How did it feel to work together?"**

- Being a loyal friend means choosing to stick together by supporting and encouraging each other. It also means we choose to care for the needs of others, not just for ourselves. God wants us to be loyal friends and stick together!

Notes:

REAL DEAL

HARRIET TUBMAN

Suggested Time: 10 minutes

Concept: Highlighting an interesting historical place, figure or event that illustrates the theme of the day. Today's theme is seeking and saving what was lost.

Teacher Tip: Entering in costume is an attention grabber for your Superkids. When presenting the information, it's helpful to have pictures available.

Teen Tip: Reviewing the script prior to class and involving teen helpers is a great way to keep the kids involved and attentive.

Costume:

- Long-sleeved, floor-length "prairie dress," hair pulled back in braids or in a bun

Intro:

- Today we've been discussing loyalty and friendship.

Ask **Is there a cadet who can tell us about our greatest friend, a friend who sticks closer to us than any other?**

- *(Allow kids the opportunity to share and discuss the importance of pursuing a friendship with Jesus, loyalty, and choosing good friends to support and encourage.)*
- For this "Real Deal" lesson we'll be learning about a woman who demonstrated great loyalty, friendship and perseverance.
- Her nickname was "Moses," because she led many people out of slavery, just like Moses was instructed to lead God's people out of slavery.
- Today's "Real Deal" is about Harriet Tubman.

Ask **Does anyone know anything about this woman named Harriet Tubman?**

Lesson:

About Harriet Tubman

- Harriet Tubman was a brave young woman, who escaped from slavery.
- Harriet led 13 dangerous rescue missions to free over 70 friends and family members from slavery.
- Historians believe Harriet was born between 1820 and 1825. No one knows for certain, because during this time in American history, birth records were not kept for slaves.

Harriet's Inspiration—God's Freedom

- Harriet had many terrible experiences as a slave, as did many slaves, but Harriet chose to believe in and rely on God. Harriet chose to pray for those who hurt her.
- As a child, Harriet's mother would read her Bible stories. She learned about God asking Moses to help rescue the children of Israel from slavery. This story continually inspired and motivated her to someday live free and to help others experience freedom.

The Great Escape

- Harriet's first attempt at freedom lasted only two weeks. She wouldn't give up! Harriet was determined and knew it was God's will for people to live free and use their freedom to help others.
- Harriet's second attempt at freedom was successful and she began her mission to set others free.

The "Underground Railroad"

- Rescue missions were challenging and scary, so Harriet developed an "Underground Railroad" system.
- The "Underground Railroad" was actually a willing group of people who hid escaped slaves in their homes during the day. This group of people helped slaves make their journey to freedom, without being seen or caught.
- For most slaves, freedom was about 90 miles away, which took almost three weeks of travel by foot.

Giving in Secret

- Harriet's rescue missions were "top secret" and she helped rescue slaves for 11 years. At the time, she did not receive recognition for her bravery, but she continued her missions because she loved God and wanted people to live free.

Outro:

- A famous quote from Harriet Tubman: "I am free, and they should be free." We can choose to live free and help others experience "true" freedom in Jesus. Harriet Tubman is an inspiration. Her determination, loyalty, love for God, and mission for freedom, empowered her to rescue many slaves.

Notes: _____

OFFERING

BE READY

Suggested Time: 10 minutes

Offering Scripture: *Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you?*

James 2:14-16 MSG

Offering Instructions:

- In the Offering Scripture today, James wanted to share about the importance of helping those in need.
- James 2:14-16 says, "...Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, 'Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!' and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you?"

Ask **What does this scripture mean to you, cadets?**

- *(Allow time for the cadets to share and discuss what this scripture means to them and how they can live it out in their everyday lives.)*
- By meeting people where they are and expressing "real" interest in their lives, we plant seeds of God's unconditional love and goodness in their hearts. We can choose to be people of love and action by offering help to those in need.
- OK, cadets, let's take a moment and write down three ways we, as Superkids, can help those in need.
- *(Allow kids an opportunity to share their ideas.)*
- We will follow up next week. Come ready to share some of the ways you were able to help others in need!
- What an awesome opportunity we have to honor God by giving and by helping those in need.

Notes: _____

WORD TIME

A FRIENDSHIP MADE IN HEAVEN

Memory Verse: For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

Luke 19:10

Teacher Tip: Prior to teaching about God's goodness, meditate and pray specifically for the Holy Spirit to help lead the class. The truth and goodness of God will resonate with the hearts of the kids!

I. JESUS WANTS TO BE YOUR BEST FRIEND

a. God gave His only Son to save us and to win our friendship. John 3:16

b. God wants us to choose life and friendship with Him. Deuteronomy 30:19

c. God made His choice, now it's our turn!

II. JESUS IS A *TRUE FRIEND*

a. A true friend is always willing to help us. Hebrews 7:25

b. Jesus sacrificed His life for us. John 15:13 says that there is no greater love than this!

c. A true friend always stands up for you.

III. REAL FRIENDS GIVE THE HELP YOU NEED

a. Because of sin, we needed our friendship with our Father back.

b. Our friend Jesus came to defeat death and to bring life to us. John 10:10

c. Jesus gave His life to win our place in heaven! John 15:13

A Word From Commander Dana: One thing children understand is the concept of a best friend. Many of them are discovering what a fun and special experience it is to have someone they are especially close to, someone they can confide in, and most of all, spend every possible moment with! Ask your "super" kids what they like about their best friends, and then give them examples of how Jesus has shown us what kind of friend He really is.

(Qualities of a good friend: loyal, trustworthy, honest, encouraging, supportive, generous, fun, etc.)

STORYBOOK THEATER

PUPPY LOVE

Suggested Time: 15 minutes

Concept: Maddie's heart's desire is fulfilled when Snowflake, a lost puppy, is the result of her trusting God with her simple prayer to have a puppy. In this story, we see Maddie rescuing the abandoned puppy, which portrays the love of our Father who sent His Son to save the lost.

Memory Verse: For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

Luke 19:10

OPTIONS FOR STORY PRESENTATION:

Choose which story presentation option fits best with your team (you can also do both).

Storybook Theater:

Teacher Tip: Reviewing the script prior to the service and involving teen helpers is a great way to keep Superkids involved and attentive.

Illustrated Story:

Teacher Tip: Cut the paper to fit the board, and tape it down. Lightly sketch the drawing with a pencil prior to presentation during service. Time may not allow the picture to be completely drawn and colored on stage. Erase the pencil lines, so light lines are visible to the artist, but are not visible to the audience. Review the story ahead of time to determine the amount of time needed to complete the illustration while on stage. When the story begins, use black felt-tip markers to draw the picture, following the sketched pencil lines. Next, apply color using the pastel chalk. Then, blend the color with the rags. Finally, cut the illustration from the board, roll it up, secure with rubber bands, and share it with a Superkid!

Characters (For Storybook Theater):

1. **Madison:** Young girl who is respectful to her parents. She is passionate about getting a dog.
2. **Mom:** Sweet but only half-listens to Madison's request for a dog.
3. **Dad:** Strong character, bold and speaks with authority when praying.

Costumes (For Storybook Theater): Winter clothes (coat, scarf and gloves)

Supplies (For Illustrated Story): ☐ Easel (to set foam-core board on), ☐ Large piece of foam core (30" X 48" size from an art store), ☐ Roll of white, banner-sized paper (teacher supply or art store), ☐ Black felt-tip markers (for initial drawing and outlining), ☐ Pastel chalks (from art store), ☐ Rags or cloth (to blend chalks), ☐ Scissors (to cut paper to size), ☐ Tape (to tape paper to foam-core board), ☐ Rubber bands (to roll up paper for giveaway), ☐ Small table (to put art supplies on during story), ☐ Pencil and eraser (art pencils are best), ☐ Art smock (to keep your artist's clothes clean)

1. Storybook Theater:

Select people ahead of time (these can be team members or Superkids who are good readers, dramatic and expressive) to read the spoken lines of the characters. The number of people you select to be your character voices will depend on how many characters have lines in your story, and how many people you have available. If you are limited on people, you can have readers play two or more characters. Just be sure they can make each character have a distinctly different voice! Make copies of the story and highlight their lines. We suggest doing at least one practice read before service to make sure delivery is smooth. For added fun, dress your characters in costumes! At the beginning of your story, introduce your cast of characters.

2. Illustrated Story:

If there is an artist in the house, this is a great addition to your story time! While the story is being read, the artist can illustrate it and give the drawing as a prize at the conclusion. Use the picture giveaway as an incentive for Superkids to be extra quiet and pay close attention. Initially, there will be a few supplies to purchase, but don't let this be a deterrent from using the illustrated story option! Once the supplies have been purchased, they'll be long-lasting and reusable.

Puppy Love

"Mom, when can I have a dog?" Madison asked her mom.

In fact, she asked her mom and dad at least twice a week about getting a dog. Her mother usually gave the same answer, and here it was again, "Pretty soon, Maddie, pretty soon."

Madison closed her bedroom door and flopped back on her bed. Why did parents say stuff like "pretty soon" or "maybe"?

"I'll bet there's a book called, *How to Never Give Your Kids a Straight Answer,*" she decided, "and my parents have a signed copy hidden somewhere. It's the only way they could say 'pretty soon' so much."

Madison had wanted a dog for as long as she could remember. To be more specific, she wanted a puppy that would eventually become a full-grown dog. The thought of having her very own little puppy made her smile.

That night, when Madison climbed into bed, her parents came into her room to pray and tuck her in. Her mom and dad sat on the side of her bed, as her dad said a prayer. "God, watch over Maddie tonight as she sleeps. Keep her close to You all of her life, and give her the desires of her heart. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Madison looked up at her father. "Daddy, did you really mean that prayer?" she asked. Her father looked surprised.

"Every word!" he replied.

"Because the desire of my heart right now is to have a puppy, and that's what I want more than anything else, but you and Mom always say 'pretty soon' when I ask for one."

Before Madison went to sleep, she decided to talk to God about her dog situation. "Heavenly Father, would You help me get a puppy that will end up being a dog?" she prayed.

"I really want one, and I will give it all the love it can stand!" With that Madison turned on her side and fell asleep.

That night, Madison dreamt she had a puppy of her own. He was hiding somewhere in the house, and she could not find him anywhere. "Come here, boy. Come on," Madison coaxed. "Come out, I want to play with you and take care of you!"

"Maddie, time to wake up. We have to get ready." Her mom's voice woke her, interrupting her perfectly good dream about puppy hunting.

Madison then remembered they were going to her cousin's house for a visit.

"Let's go, it's a long drive," her mother shouted from the kitchen. "And don't forget to bring your coat, it's getting really cold outside!" In no time, Madison and her mom were driving to the country. The wind was blowing, and it looked like it could snow.

"I hope we get some snow to play in!" Madison exclaimed.

As they drove along Madison stared out the window. She was daydreaming about dogs, time with her cousins, and playing in the snow.

As they drove past an old road, Madison noticed something. "Mom, I think I saw something along that road!" she said excitedly.

"What is it?" her mother asked.

"I couldn't tell, but it looked like a small animal of some kind. Can we turn around and check?"

Madison's mom looked at her watch, and then at the clouds. "We'll take a quick look, but don't get too close," her mother warned.

As she turned the car around, Madison could feel her heart pounding. Madison wondered, "What kind of small animal would be out here all alone, in this freezing weather?"

As the car rolled to a stop, Madison got out and walked closer to the road. She bent down and peered at the small animal.

The small animal was huddled in a ball several feet away from her. Madison could see it was shivering. Suddenly it lifted its head and looked at her. It was a small puppy, half frozen and scared to move. It just sat there huddled up and continued its shivering.

Madison began to talk in a quiet voice. "Come here, boy. Come on! We have a warm car for you to ride in."

The little puppy didn't move. He seemed to be frozen in place. He appeared to be frightened.

As Madison continued to call him, she suddenly remembered her dream. In her softest voice she whispered, "Come on, little puppy. I just want to play with you and be your best friend."

Finally the puppy took a step. He looked at Madison as she smiled and held her hand out. He took another step, and then another. After what seemed like forever to Madison, the puppy headed toward her outstretched arms.

Just as the snowflakes were beginning to fall, the puppy gave Madison's hand a tiny lick. She carefully picked him up and walked to the car.

"Mom, isn't this amazing?" Her mom was very surprised! "Can I keep him?" Madison asked.

"On one condition," her mother replied, "if we cannot find the owner."

"I think someone dumped the puppy out here, Mom," she said. "I'm going to call him Snowflake because I rescued him just before the snowflakes covered the ground. As they rode along, Snowflake snuggled into Maddie's lap. He seemed very content, and even made little noises that made Madison smile.

When Madison went to bed that night, Snowflake slept right beside her in his own warm bed. Before she went to sleep, Madison prayed, "God, thank You SOOOO much for letting me help Snowflake. I promise to love him and take really good care of him."

Sure enough, Snowflake became Madison's puppy. As you can imagine, he grew up having the best life a puppy could ask for. And eventually, Snowflake became a full-grown dog.

The End.

Notes:

HANDOUT A FRIENDSHIP MADE IN HEAVEN

Memory Verse: *For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.*
Luke 19:10

Superkid Handout Grades 1-3

Fill in the blanks.

1. In today's Game Time we learned that _____ of a feather _____ together. (Answer: birds, stick)

2. A true friend is always willing to help us. Jesus is a true _____. (Answer: friend)

3. Today we learned that Jesus is a true friend who is always ready to help. What can you ask Jesus to help you with this week at:

   Home _____

   School _____

   Church _____

4. Learn the Superkid Creed! Memorize this part, and soon you'll know the whole "Superkid Creed"!

   I live and walk by faith, not by what I see. I walk in the power of my strong spirit. I am full of wisdom and understanding.

Also available on the CD-ROM.

HANDOUT A FRIENDSHIP MADE IN HEAVEN

Memory Verse: For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

Luke 19:10

Superkid Handout Grades 4-6

1. In today's Game Time, what did we learn about friendship? (Hint: Birds of a feather stick together.)

2. Today we learned that Jesus is a true friend who is always ready to help. What can you ask Jesus to help you with this week?

3. Learn the Superkid Creed! Memorize this part, and soon you'll know the whole "Superkid Creed"!

I live and walk by faith, not by what I see. I walk in the power of my strong spirit. I am full of wisdom and understanding.

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DINNERTIME DEVOTIONAL HANDOUT

A FRIENDSHIP MADE IN HEAVEN

Memory Verse: *For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.*

Luke 19:10

Ask **Your Superkid to name the chapter and verse of the above memory verse.**

Jesus Is a True Friend:

God wants us to choose life and friendship with Him. Deuteronomy 30:19

A true friend is always willing to help us. Hebrews 7:25

Jesus sacrificed His life for us. John 15:13 says that there is no greater love than this!

Our Friend Jesus came to defeat death and to bring life to us. John 10:10

Family Review Questions:

Jesus sacrified His life to save us. He is the ultimate friend. What are some ways we can demonstrate this type of friendship to the people in our lives every day?

1. Read and discuss John 15:13.
2. God wants us to choose life and friendship with Him (Deuteronomy 30:19). What does it mean to choose life?

Tips for Parents: *This Dinnertime Devotional can be used at any mealtime, and is designed to reinforce the truths being taught at Superkid Academy.*

Make sure you set the example by reading the verses out loud from your Bible. (We use the New Living Translation with most of our lessons, but reading from other translations can also provide a great teaching opportunity.)

Take a few minutes to read any other scriptures listed in the lesson so you can reinforce the main theme.

Let your questions guide the discussion time. In other words, allow your kids to do most of the talking. We've provided some questions here, but feel free to add more, using examples from your own life. (Remember to avoid asking questions that only require yes or no answers, since they do not foster conversation.)

Also available on the CD-ROM.

SUPPLY LIST

A FRIENDSHIP MADE IN HEAVEN

Game Time: Friends Stick Together

- [ ] Several large balloons
- [ ] 1 Large feather

Real Deal: Harriet Tubman

Costume:

- [ ] Long-sleeved, floor-length "prairie dress"

Storybook Theater: Puppy Love

Costumes (For Storybook Theater):

- [ ] Winter clothes (coat, scarf and gloves)

Supplies (For Illustrated Story):

- [ ] Easel (to set foam-core board on)
- [ ] Large piece of foam core (30" X 48" size from an art store)
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