



Together

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,

Adventuring together with you wherever we may go.

Amen

In-person game

Groups of three!

Firstly, ask your group to move safely around your room. (You can specify types of movement – hopping/jumping/star-jumping – if you hG1 0 0 Cv.4 48.264dou wD.264 4!



Experience

For this story we recommend using The Message version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+18%3A1-4%2C+20%3A42+&version=MSG>

Where can I find the story online?

Under fives: Slapstick Theatre <https://youtu.be/pZ2hRq-ei0U?si=rehubGB9AfnqAyF7>

Over fives: Storytellers from Crossroad Kids

<https://youtu.be/iNA3cumhJww?si=soYYnvtya4cHW6JG>

Songs to support the story

Under fives: Jesus wants to be my friend forever <https://youtu.be/qv5NB-ib0uk?si=f7VemiVRqneLaK7q>

Five to elevens: We'll be!



Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too.

by Oliver Jeffers

<https://youtu.be/cRAAQ8EWzig?si=oFA6NvuDoUrt9KaH>

Talking together: How might we talk about the story together?

David and Jonathan both enjoyed music. What do you enjoy doing with your friends?
Do you have a best friend, or a friend, with a God connection too?
What's the difference between the two?



Everyday with Jesus Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with



Jesus our friend,

as we share together

Thank you for your support

Right middle finger touches centre of other palm, repeat

Alternate hands

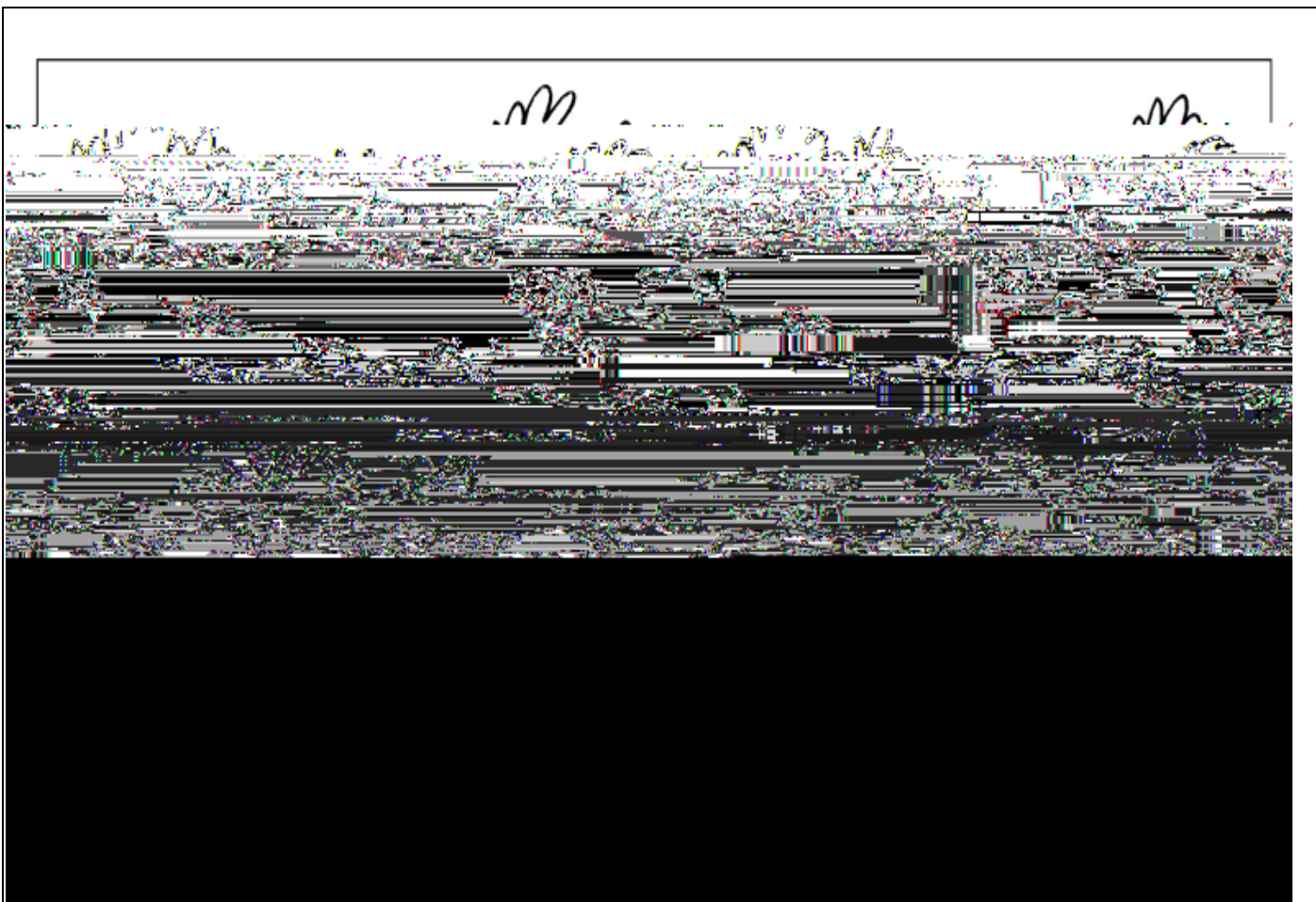


Illustration by lambsongs.co.nz via freebibleimages.com

