

# THURSDAY (Younger Elementary)

## Welcome & Opening Activity

### Greeting:

Welcome and greet your kids as they enter the room for the first time. Use the acronym W.A.R.M. to guide your welcoming time. As leaders be “W.A.R.M.” toward your kids.

**W**-Welcome and greet each child by name every day!

**A**-Actively Participate-Kids notice when the leaders are sitting on the edge. Join in and participate in all the experiences of camp even when you are not leading them.

**R**-Relationship Building-Kids will open up if they know you care for them. Ask questions, get to know them this week.

**M**-Model Jesus- For some kids, you may be the only person to show them how to follow Jesus.

Have a container ready to collect any monetary donations for our mission project. The mission collection team will come by your classroom to collect the money to count and deposit each day. Please leave it on your check in table or is a spot they can easily find it.

### Early Arrival Activity:

*Supplies needed: butcher paper on the wall with opening question, challenge chart, Journals*

**Opening Question:** What is the best gift you ever received from a friend? (Write and draw!)

**Challenge Chart:** Let kids fill in the section labeled “Putting others first” with any personal stories or pictures where they experienced or showed that characteristic of friendship since they left camp yesterday.

As kids arrive, have them draw/write on the butcher paper answering the opening question. They can fill in the challenge chart. You can also hand out the journals and have work on the pages for day four. The journal can also be used at any point during the day.

***When majority of kids have arrived gather everyone in a circle.***

**SAY:** Hi guys! Welcome back to Vacation Bible Camp! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I get to hang out with you again today! We’re continuing our “You’ve Got a Friend in Me” adventure, learning about Friendship. We’re learning all about what it takes to be a good friend and how Jesus wants to be our BEST friend. Let’s review our definition for friendship. *Move to friendship poster.* **Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care.**

Before we start everyone tell the person next to you if you'd rather have a cupcake for dessert or an ice cream cone.

We've heard three awesome stories from the Bible about friendship and specific qualities or characteristics of being a friend. Let's review! Who remembers the Bible stories we've explored and those qualities? *Day 1: The Good Samaritan-on the lookout; Day 2: David and Jonathon-being loyal; Day 3: Ruth and Naomi-putting others first.* What about the Toy Story characters and friendship qualities? *Lenny/on the lookout, Slinky/loyalty, Buzz/putting others first.*

Today our characteristic of friendship is...*move to CHARACTERistics poster for Day 4: Woody – Standing for what is right.*

Stands for what is right! Today our theme is all about standing up for what is right. A good friend will help you do the right thing even when others aren't. Today is going to be a REALLY good day for us to learn and grow in this quality of friendship!

You know, in the movie Toy Story, Woody was a character who really wanted to make the right choice, and he tried to lead the other toys to make the right choice too! He didn't always get it right, and sometimes he messed up a little, but for the most part, Woody was a good friend when it came to making right choices.

### **Opening Activity: Guess it Right**

#### **Instructions:**

- Break the kids into small groups of 3-4
- **SAY:** We are going to play a little game to see if we can tell what is right and what is wrong. I'm going to read a question and you are going to tell the other people in your group one right and one wrong answer. The group has to decide which answer is the right answer. For example, if the question is What is your first name? I could say Susie or Johnny. You'd have to guess which one is the right one. Make sense? Then you'll take turns answering the questions.

#### **Questions:**

What's your favorite cereal?

What's your middle name?

What do you want to be when you grow up?

What's your favorite movie?

Who is your favorite toy story character?

What is your favorite color?

#### **SAY:**

Great job guessing! Now the leaders are going to give it a try and see if you can guess! (go for a few minutes).

#### **Standing up Right**

**Activity:** Stronger than you think  
*Supplies: paper, small books/Bibles*

**SAY:** I've got this piece of paper in my hand and this small book. Can you think of anyway this paper can hold up this book if I only use one hand? I'm going to give you a few minutes to try it on your own.

**DO:** Count the kids by 5's and have them gather with their groups. Give them each a piece of paper and a book. Let them have a few minutes to try different ways to get the paper to hold the book. After a few attempts call them all back together.

**SAY:** Were you able to get the paper to hold the book up? It wasn't easy was it. Let me tell you how it can be done. Roll your piece of paper into a tube!! Then place the book on top, it should support it now. (give kids a chance to try it in their groups)

The paper at first is flimsy, and doesn't stand a chance holding up the book. This can happen to us when we are faced with a hard situation that we just can't handle on our own. We feel weak and can't find a way to stand up and do what is right. In our Bible story today we'll learn about three friends who come together to stand up for what is right. It might have been hard or impossible for them to stand up on their own but together they could do what was right. Do you have friends that can come alongside you to help you do what is right? Are you the kind of friend who encourages others to do what is right? I can't wait for you to hear what the three friends faced together!

### **Bible Verse Review**

Let's see if you can also get the Bible verse right! Review the Bible verse from previous days. Posters provided of 3 main Bible verses.

### *Before traveling to Drama and Worship*

All of the campers here at VBC are super great people and we want everyone to have the best time ever. To help with that we have what I like to call...**Camp Rules of Fun and Friendship!** We'll visit these each day and they'll help us all have fun and be good friends!

*Show printout and invite kids to read each aloud. Post in a highly visible place in room.*

1. Pay Attention
2. Respect Others
3. Stick Together
4. Have Fun
5. Be a Friend

Each day we'll travel to the sanctuary or what we sometimes call big church to learn an awesome story from the Bible. We'll also be meeting some very cool and silly folks along the way. Let's go!

## Drama and Worship In the sanctuary 1:15-2:00pm

After your time in the sanctuary pay attention to your schedule, you may be going directly to a rotation or back to your classroom. While you've been in the sanctuary the snack team has delivered your snack, unless it's your day to go to Pizza Planet. You can serve it whenever you feel is a good time to have a break.

### Bible Story Review

*Supplies: Bible Story Sequence Posters taped to walls out of order around the room.*

#### **Day 4 Bible Story Review** (taken from *The Beginners Bible*, Zonderkidz)

*Each statement is paired with a picture. Children will move to the posted image that matches each part of the story.*

**SAY:** It's time for us to review our Bible story. I am going to read a sentence and you are going to move to the picture in the classroom that shows that part of the story. Are you ready? Here we go:

1. King Nebuchadnezzar took control of the Israelites and was now their ruler.
2. King Nebuchadnezzar built a golden statue and made a law that said, "when the music plays, everyone must bow down and worship the statue. Those who disobey will be thrown into the fiery furnace."
3. Three Israelite friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego did not bow down to worship the statue, even though they knew the punishment. They said, "We only worship the true God"
4. The King made the furnace extra hot. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown inside but were not hurt. An angel of God was with them.
5. The King took them out of the furnace and praised God. King Nebuchadnezzar even made the 3 friends rulers in his kingdom.

#### **Bible Story ROUND UP:**

**SAY:** Now that we've reviewed the story, let's ROUND UP what we know! *Note the ROUND UP poster. Go over the 4 questions with friendship quality "standing up for what is right" and allow kids time to talk and share.*

1. **Who was standing up for what is right?** *S, M, A*
2. **When were they standing up for what is right?** *They didn't bow to the statue even when everyone else was.*
3. **How can we stand up for what is right?** *Allow plenty of discussion and sharing; can they share a time someone standing for what is right*
4. **Jesus is always standing up for what is right.** *Jesus helps us stand for what is right because He is always with us. We're never alone and always have his help.*

**Pray together. You can pray, ask a camper to pray, or read the prayer below.**

God, thank you for the friendship of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Thank you for the way they stuck together and helped one another do the right thing. Please help us be the kind of friend who helps make right choices, even if no one else is. Amen.

**Activity: Friendship Shoe Tower**

*Supplies: Shoe activity page, markers/crayons, scissors, masking tape, Friends stand up for what is Right paper*

**Do This:**

Each child will design a shoe, decorating in their own way\*. Cut shoes out and tape to a wall, starting at the bottom of the wall and placing shoes a bit higher each time to look like a stack. Once all shoes are on the wall, tape the RIGHT print piece at top.

\*Or you can have the kids take off their shoes and trace their own feet!

**SAY:**

Each of you made amazing shoes! As a group, we have a much taller and strong tower than if it was just our shoe alone. Think about the shoe you made as being you. If one of you gets a little weak, or is tempted to do the wrong thing, but all your friends around you are encouraging you to do the right thing, it's a lot easier! We can be a good friend by standing for what is right and helping the people we're around do the right thing too.

**Activity: Freeze Dance**

*Supplies: any kind of music – use someone's phone or bring in a radio*

**SAY:** In today's Bible Story whenever anyone heard music play they had to bow down. Let's play a little game of Freeze Dance, however, this game will be a little different than what Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to do when the music played. Here are the instructions:

- When the music plays everyone does some free dancing.
- When the music stops everyone has to freeze as an object I will call out, like a Ninja or animal.
- Start the music and let's get moving!

Some of the objects that can be called out are: Ninja, Surfer, Skiing, Bird, Giraffe, Statue Of Liberty, Strong Dude, Tired Dude, Etc. come up with your own if you have time and interest continues in the game.

**Closing: Challenge Chart:**

**SAY:** Every day we are learning important characteristics about friendship. Monday we learned about being "on the lookout", Tuesday about being "loyal/sticky", yesterday about "putting others

first". Let's see how people put that in to practice. (Talk about what the children put on the sheet). Today we have learned what it means to "stand up for what is right", can you go home today and practice that? When you come in tomorrow you can share the ways you showed or experienced standing up for what is right by writing or drawing it on this paper on the wall. What are you going to try to practice tonight? (Standing up for what is right)

**Closing Video:** Toy Story Clip with Woody (instructions will be provided)

**Dismissal:**

**SAY:** I can't believe tomorrow is our last day together. It has been a joy getting to know you and spend time with you this week. I hope you are inspired to become a better friend and to make new friends in all the places you find yourself this summer, like at the pool, at camp, on the playground. Jesus wants us to be friends with everyone!

Remind about shaving cream party! Clothes or swimsuits, towels, goggles!

**Extra Time – Journal Time!**

Pull out your journal books and sketch in the day four section!