



HOUSE PARTY

PARENT GUIDE

September 06

Life App Definition

Friendship — using your words and actions to show others you care

Main Idea

Solomon wrote, "Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do" (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIRV). Solomon goes on to remind us that like a three-strand cord, we are stronger when we work together as friends. God designed relationships to help make life easier. As kids become more aware of how their friends influence them, it's important for them to know how to choose good friends. We pray that kids will choose friends who encourage them and help them grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Memory Verse

"A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes" (Proverbs 17:17 NIRV).

Bottom Line

Choose your friends carefully.

Monthly Profession

I am never alone. God is always with me; He never leaves me.

Small-Group Discussion

Review the story and use the following questions to reinforce the lesson learned from the story.

- What does the writer of Ecclesiastes tell us?
- If one person falls down, what can the other person do?
- What play was Jackson going to help build a set for?
- What was the name of the other kid who showed up to help?
- How was Jackson feeling about Amahl's ability to build?
- How did Amahl do when it came to painting?
- What happened when Amahl and Jackson worked together on painting the chickens?

- What did the boys learn about their differences and how they could use them to work together?
- What makes someone a good friend?
- Why do we sometimes put up with bad friends or choose to be friends with someone who isn't a good friend back to us?
- What makes choosing friends carefully so difficult?
- What kind of friend are you? What kind of friend do you want to be?

Object Lesson

The following activity is intended to help your children apply the lesson that was learned in today's House Party. Complete the activity as a family by following the steps below.

Supplies Needed

- ❑ "Good Friends" activity page (attached)
- ❑ Green and red markers or crayons

Activity

- Give each of your children a "Good Friends" page.
- Encourage the kids to color "what good friends do" in green and "what bad friends do" in red.
- As your children work, engage them in conversation about being a good friend. Ask:
 - How do you know when someone's a good friend?
 - How do you know you're BEING a good friend?
 - Who's the greatest friend ever? (Jesus)
- Ask them what it means to influence someone? (To affect or change their behavior or how they think) Did you know that you are influenced by others whether you know it or not?
- Share with your children that some people can influence us to do good things, while some can influence us to do bad things. That's why it's important to choose your friends carefully.
- If someone is always unfriendly and hurting you or not being nice, you might need to protect yourself and kindly walk away and not talk to them. If you struggle to know what is the correct thing to do, talk to a trusted adult to help you deal with the situation.
- Make it personal by sharing an age-appropriate story about a time when you had trouble choosing your friends carefully. How did you know a friend wasn't good for you? How did it make you feel?
- End by reminding them that one way they can have good friends is by BEING a good friend.

Prayer

Take a moment and pray with your children. Ask God to help you all be good friends.

Dear God,

Thank You for showing us the importance of godly and healthy friendships. Help us to be a good friend to those You have put in our lives by (name a few good friendship skills from the activity page). Please help us when we are tempted to not be a good friend by (name a couple of bad friendship skills from the activity page). Help us to rely on and trust You in our friendships because that is the only way we can **choose our friends carefully**. Amen.