

### Key Vocabulary

Friend  
Happy  
Sad  
Love  
make up  
kind  
gentle  
loving  
sorry  
Jesus,  
rule  
understanding  
new start  
friendship  
forgive

# Reconciliation — Friends

## Friends

This topic is all about friends.

In EYFS the foundations for understanding the Sacrament of Reconciliation are laid. The children are not yet introduced to the Sacrament but are helped to understand more fully the difference between right and wrong, the importance of saying sorry and how we can make up and make a fresh start with our friends.

Explore — We can make friends.

Reveal — Jesus had good friends; what Jesus tells us about friendship

Respond — Remembering, celebrating and responding to how we can make good friends, that Jesus had good friends and what Jesus tells us about friendship

## Our Big Question:

*Is it good to have friends?*

See the Background Notes for Parents

**Week 1:** Read together stories about what it means to be a friend. Talk about what being a friend means: friends look after and do things for one another; friends do things together; friends make one another happy; things that spoil friendship; making friends again. Ask children to draw pictures of friends, make friendship bracelets or have a friends' tea party with their toys.

**Week 2:** Read the story of Jesus and his friends and talk about the key questions. Ask children to draw themselves in the picture and think about how they can be good friends of Jesus.

**Week 3:** Share the story about A New Rule and talk about it. Talk about how friendships can be broken. How do we make friends again when we fall out? Introduce saying sorry and what it means to forgive each other so we can mend broken friendships. Ask children to draw a circle of friends and write the new rule in the centre

**Week 4 :** Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all we have learnt about being friends, Jesus' friends, his special rule and how to make up if we break our friendships. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship.



### Week 1:

- Read and share the story of Starry Eyed Stan (story attached). Watch and read the story together and discuss the following elements of friendship: friends look after and do things for one another; friends do things together; friends make one another happy, comfortable and glad; things that spoil friendship; making friends again.
- Have you got any stories at home about friendship (for example The Selfish Crocodile by Faustin Charles, The Rainbow fish by Marcus Pfister, Let's be Friends Again by Hans Wilhelm – all are available on Youtube.)
- Draw pictures of friends or make friendship bracelets or have a friends' tea party with your toys.

(You might be missing your friends at the moment but it's good to think about the fun you'll have when you meet up again.)



## Week 2—Jesus and his friends

- Read the story of Jesus and his friends (see below). Look at the picture and ask some key questions:  
How do we know they are friends? What does the picture tell us about friends? What did Jesus and his friends do? (They worked, told people the Good News of God's love for everyone, answered questions.) Where did they go when they were tired? What did they do together? (eat, shared experiences, rested) Where do you go when you are tired? Who do you talk to about your experiences of the day? e.g. what has gone well/what has not.

Where do you go to be quiet and still?

- Think about how you can be a friend of Jesus – by looking after others, doing as you are told, helping with tidying up and chores. Can you write a super sentence about how you could be a friend of Jesus.



*Jesus and his friends worked very hard. They travelled on rough, dusty roads to towns and villages all over the country. Sometimes they had to walk a very long way to get from one village to another. All day long they told the people in the villages and the towns the Good News of God's love for everyone. They answered lots of questions that people asked them about God, sometimes very hard ones. In the evening, they felt very tired. Sometimes they all went to a quiet, lonely place to eat, to share with each other what had happened during the day, to rest, to be quiet and still.*

*(based on Mark's Gospel Chapter 6:7,30-32)*

## Week 3



- Share the story about A New Rule (see below) and talk about it. Imagine you are in a circle of friends, use your toys to help you. What might break the friendship circle? Talk about the things that can make you and others unhappy. How do we make friends again when we fall out? Talk about saying sorry and what it means to forgive each other so we can mend broken friendships.
- Draw your own circle of friends and write the new rule in the middle of the circle.

### A New Rule

Jesus said, "I'm going to give you a new rule.

It's this: Love one another.

I love each one of you, and I want you to love each other.

When you're all happy together,  
everyone will know that you love one another, and that you are my friends."

(based on John's Gospel Chapter 13:34-35)



## Week 4

Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all we have learnt about being friends, Jesus' friends, his special rule and how to make up if we break our friendships. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship– See sample liturgy.

