

WEEK 2 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

FAMOUS

THE BIG IDEA

When we feel alone, God gives us friends.

THE BIBLE

Adonijah Tries to Become King: I Kings 1:5-14; 29-35;
Ephesians 4:25-5:2

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, read this!*
 - "We Are Royals" (North Point InsideOut)
 - "Sing from the Rooftops" (Vineyard Kids)
 - "Turn It Up" (Planetshakers)
 - "Better is One Day" (Shaylee Simeone)
 - "Everything I Could Want" (Hillsong Young & Free)

ACTIVITY | Casting Call

- Welcome to another week of Famous! Today, we are going to follow the story of two members of the royal family fighting for the throne. We'll get to see how God worked it all out so that the right person was chosen to be the next king of Israel.
- Alright, all you starlets! A large part of acting is being able to communicate an emotion even without words. It's time to put your acting skills to the test!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare the cards from the printable. Divide the group into two or three teams. The teams will take turns sending one representative, who will silently act out an emotion from a card and have their team guess.*

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Challenge the older kids by having them turn around or cover their faces with a mask and have them act out the emotion without facial expressions and instead just using their body and gesturing. Alternatively, set a timer for one minute and see how many emotions the team can guess.

- **Which of these emotions were the easiest to act out?**
- **Would it have been helpful if someone else acted it out with you?**
- Today, we're talking about how sometimes we're in situations when we feel very much alone and how God helps us during these times.

ACTIVITY | Limo Friends

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have everyone sit in chairs in a circle, but set up four of the chairs chairs closely together – this is your “limo.” Place the rest of the chairs more sparsely, including the limo as part of the circle. Divide the group into two teams, either by gender or splitting the group in half. Have the kids sit in alternating team order (such as boy/girl/boy/girl), leaving the chair to the left of the limo empty. Have everyone write their names on a piece of paper. Collect all the slips of paper and redistribute them at random so everyone potentially ends up with a new name. (Check out the game, “Couch Friends,” from the free Grow Games and Icebreakers app for more detailed instructions!)
- So, I rented a limo, but unfortunately, it can only fit four VIP guests. Your team needs to work hard to get four people from your team in the limo!
- Whoever is to the left of the empty chair, call out anyone's name in the group – but remember you all have new names now! If your new name is called, move to the empty seat.
- Whoever is sitting on the left of the newly vacated chair gets to call out a name now. The person holding that name moves to the new empty chair.
- Try to remember who has what name so that you can try to get four members of your team inside the limo first!
- **If you could get a free limo ride to anywhere with three of your friends, who would you take and what would you do?**

POLL | My Entourage

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write each of the following phrases on its own poster paper. Have the kids vote on the most important quality in a friend by placing a sticky note on the poster of their choice. Remove the one with the highest number of votes, then have them vote on the most important quality from the remaining posters. Repeat until all posters have been voted on.
- A lot of big stars have their own entourage, which is a fancy word for a group of devoted friends.
- **Which of these qualities of a friend are the most important to you?**
 - They keep my secrets.
 - They stick up for me.
 - They agree with me.
 - They are kind to me.
 - They tell me the truth.
 - They are fun.
 - They keep their promises.

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

BIBLE STORY | Adonijah Tries to Become King

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the Bible story from 1 Kings 1:5-14; 29-35 in the form of a pretend talk show. Play upbeat intro music ([like this](#)) as your volunteer playing Bathsheba walks to the staging area. Feel free to change the name of the show to suit your meeting time.*
- Welcome everyone to the Mid-Morning Show! Today's guest is probably the most famous woman in the kingdom right now. She went from being an army wife to the queen pretty much overnight! Please welcome . . . Queen Bathsheba! *[Play intro music and encourage the kids to applaud.]*
- Your Highness, welcome to the show!
 - **Bathsheba:** I'm delighted to be here. Thanks for having me.
- Of course! First of all, we are all so deeply saddened by the news of King David's failing health. Our hearts go out to you and your family during this difficult time.
 - **Bathsheba:** I appreciate that. We are all hanging in there.
- But the king's health is not the only thing people are talking about. There was some controversy not too long ago about whether or not your son, Solomon, will really become the next king?
 - **Bathsheba:** Ah, yes. That was quite a serious ordeal. My husband had made a promise that Solomon would succeed him as king. But one of his other sons, Adonijah, seeing that his father was unwell, decided to seize the opportunity to make himself king. I was terrified about what that would mean for me and my son.
- Why is that?
 - **Bathsheba:** Because we would be seen as a threat to the throne and thus kicked out of the palace, at the very least. And Adonijah had many supporters, mind you.
- He's not the only one, though. You seem to have allies of your own.
 - **Bathsheba:** Yes, thankfully we still have friends who are loyal to the crown, one of whom is Nathan the prophet. He's the one who alerted me of the whole thing and told me he'd back me up when I broke the news to my husband. Which he did. So, the king instructed Nathan and some others to anoint Solomon to become the next king in front of everyone.
- I remember that was quite the celebration! Our correspondents in Gihon reported back saying people were going wild — playing pipes and shouting, "Long live King Solomon!" It's a good thing you went and stuck up for your family.
 - **Bathsheba:** Well, I had some great friends in my corner. Some of the royal officials congratulated us, saying, "May God make Solomon's name more famous than yours!" God has been so good to my son and me.
- Bathsheba, it was so good of you to stop by our show! Give it up for Queen Bathsheba, mother of King Solomon! *[Encourage the kids to applaud.]*

BIG IDEA | When we feel alone, God gives us friends.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the Big Idea and place it inside a gold envelope, sealing it with a gold foil seal and red ribbon. Invite a volunteer to present the “award.” Once the Big Idea is read aloud, play awards music and encourage the kids to applaud.
- And the winner of today’s Big Idea is . . . **When we feel alone, God gives us friends!**

VIDEO | Famous, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show this week’s episode of Grow TV.

STORY | Along Came A Friend

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids a story about a time when you felt completely alone until a friend or two helped you feel better by comforting you, letting you know they’re on your side, clearing up a misunderstanding, etc. When you start the story, sit in the middle of a circle with the kids spread out and turned away from you. As you near the end of your story, tell them to turn around and come closer together.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Instead of telling a personal story, show a few different scenarios kids could relate to by using a visual chart. On one side, place pictures of things that make someone feel alone (e.g., no one to play with, lost or broken toys, friends arguing). On the other side, show images of inclusion (e.g., hugging, shaking hands, friends sharing).
- We all go through times when we feel alone or that no one gets what we’re going through. But there is someone who always understands everything you’re feeling — God. And God puts people in our lives, like friends, who help us through hard times.

ACTIVITY | One is the Loneliest Number

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the group into two teams. Give each team a box full of twenty objects of varying sizes, shapes, and weight, and have the teams line up on one side of the room. Roll a giant die, and whatever number you roll is the number of team members (one through six) needed to carry all the items inside the box and run across the room with it. If anyone drops a single item, they need to come back to the starting line and try again. The first team to make it to the finish line gets one item removed from their box for the next round. Play until one team has no items left!
- **Was this game easier to do with less people or more people?**
- If you were the one person having to carry all twenty items, it might have felt lonely and even more pressure to hurry to the finish line.
- We might experience something like this in real life, too. We might feel like we have no one on our side, but that is when we need to lean on our friends and family to help us cope and work out solutions. **When we feel alone, God gives us friends!**

BIBLE | Ephesians 4:25-5:2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cut out ten large hearts and create a path with them across the room. Start at the first heart, and read Ephesians 4:25. Then, travel to the next heart and read Ephesians 4:26. Continue until you get to the last heart, and read Ephesians 5:2. Get creative with how you place the hearts – for example, you can tape one on an umbrella that everyone has to squeeze under, or on a bench everyone has to stand on together. Alternatively, you can “hide” them around the room, and have the group flock to the next heart they spot.*
- We were following these hearts today because this Bible passage tells us to “walk in the way of love.”
- Solomon and Bathsheba might have felt alone and didn’t know what to do when Adonijah declared himself as the next king. They knew this would mean that they could get kicked out of the palace, or worse.
- But they had friends who helped them out even when all seemed lost. This was a very big deal – if their plan didn’t work, all of them could have been punished for going behind the back of the new king!
- The friends of Solomon’s family acted in ways of love even though it was risky for them to do so.
- **From what we just read in Ephesians, can you name some things we can do or not do that might be ways of love?**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Famous For: Giving Us Friends

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids listen to “Famous For (I Believe)” by Tauren Wells. Project or print the lyrics for the kids to follow along with as they listen, or play a lyric video. Prepare a dry erase board.*
- **Can you think of what Jesus was famous for when Jesus was here on Earth?** *[Write responses on board.]*
- When Jesus was here on Earth, everyone knew about Jesus and the things Jesus could do. Jesus was famous! But even Jesus felt alone. When Jesus was praying in the garden before being arrested, Jesus asked friends to pray, but they fell asleep. When Jesus was captured, all the friends ran away.
- So, Jesus really gets what being alone is like – Jesus has been there! And because Jesus loves us, Jesus doesn’t leave us to stay alone whenever we are experiencing loneliness.
- Today’s Big Idea reminds us that **when we feel alone, God gives us friends.** And sometimes, the friends God gives us might not be the friends you expected. Even when your best friend might not agree with you, there is always a friend that will help you – God makes sure of that.

RESPONSE | Reel Talk

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out the printable and provide writing and drawing supplies. Glue or tape this week's activity to the one from last week to build their "response reel."
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** In addition to or instead of this module, give preteens the opportunity to make mention of the friendships (or potential friendships) in the group. If you have access to an instant camera, take pictures of each small group or friend group and send a photo home with each kid.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Use an instant camera or photo printer to take pictures of each kid with their friends in the group. Provide assistance in gluing the photos onto their reels.
- Draw a picture of you with your friends. Think of a time when a friend helped you to not feel alone anymore. If you can't think of one, think of your favorite thing to do with your friends.
- As you draw your picture, silently thank God for giving you your friends. They may not be perfect, but they might be exactly who you need.
- **When we feel alone, God gives us friends.**

MEMORY VERSE | Screen Test

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help the kids memorize 1 Corinthians 10:31 by pretending that you are a casting director and the kids are auditioning for a role. Say a part of the memory verse and have the kids echo it back to you. Then, add fun stage directions such as, "Say it like you just won a million dollars," "Now, say it like you're a doctor delivering bad news," "This time, say it like you're telling a secret," "Try saying it like it's the saddest day of your life."

PRAYER

- Dear God, we often feel that no one else understands what we're going through. But we know you do because you've been there and you know how much we are hurting. Help us to remember you are our truest ally and you will always send us somebody whenever we feel alone. Thank you for being our famous friend who always gives us VIP access. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did Adonijah do that he didn't have permission to do?**
- **What advice did Nathan give Bathsheba?**
- **What did David do when he heard what Adonijah had done?**
- **Read Ephesians 5:2. How can you "walk in the way of love" for the people in your life?**
- **What are some things you do when you feel alone?**
- **Name a few people in your life you know will always be there for you.**
- **Why is it better to tell someone about what you're going through when you're feeling sad, lonely, or helpless?**

ACTIVITY | In the Spotlight

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On the front of the printable, encourage the kids to draw a picture of themselves in the spotlight using a black ballpoint pen. On the back, ask the kids to draw pictures of a few friends and family members on the middle of the page directly behind the image of the spotlight. Once they are done, they can flip the paper back over and then hold it up to the light (or use a flashlight) to see themselves surrounded by friends!*
- Our friends don't always get recognition for being good friends to us. Or there are people who have been good friends to us all along but we didn't know it.
- Let's put them in the spotlight today to remind us that **when we feel alone, God gives us friends** . . . whether we realize it or not!

MEMORY VERSE | I Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/ICorinthians10-31.*
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."**