



## Battle Squids

### Book of Proverbs: Wise Friendships

**BIG IDEA:** God desires that we have friends who stick with us and help us follow Him.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Proverbs 17:17, 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20; 23:16-18

**KEY VERSE:** “But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”  
Proverbs 18:24 (NIRV)

### ★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

#### BATTLE SQUIDS CONNECT QUESTIONS

**Say:** Today we’re going to continue our “Battle Squids” series. That means we get to have another incredible competition to help us learn all about the Book of Proverbs. In today’s story we’ll be learning about the importance of choosing our friends wisely.

**Question:** Tell us about your best friend! What do you like about him/her?

**Question:** What do you think it means to choose friends wisely? What should you look for in a friend?

#### ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

### ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON





## ★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### STORY QUESTIONS

#### For Younger Kids:

1. What did you find interesting about this story?
2. What made Jonathan a good friend?

#### For Older Kids:

1. What did you find interesting about this story?
2. What do you think makes David and Jonathan's friendship so special?

### STUCK TOGETHER (Application Activity)

**Set-up:** Using tape, create a starting line for your three-legged-race. Only one pair of kids will go at a time. Print out the question cards and spread them out face down on the floor a fair distance from the starting line.

**Say:** Today we saw how God wants us to have friends who stick with us and help us follow Him. We're going to get stuck together and play a game to help us figure out how to do this!

**Directions:** Tell kids to get in pairs. Choose a pair to go first. Standing side by side, have the kids tie their legs together so they can run a "three-legged race." (For younger kids, leaders should be prepared to assist the kids with the tying.) Tell the pair to stand at the starting line. When you say "go," have the pair race to the question cards, pick one up, and race back. Use a stopwatch or smartphone to time how long it takes the pair, and then record their time. Remind kids that they have to "stick together" to do well in this race! When they return, let the pair who retrieved the card answer the question first, but then open it up to the rest of the group. Repeat until everyone has had a turn or all of the cards have been used. In the end, announce which pair of kids was the fastest.

#### Questions:

- Tell me a way that God can help friends stick together.
- Tell us about a time a friend stuck by you. How did that affect your friendship?
- Tell us about a time a friend did not stick by you. How did that affect your friendship?
- How can friends help us to follow God more?
- How can friends lead us away from following God?
- Why do you think God cares so much about your friendships?
- Tell us one way you are going to be a better friend to someone this week.

### SAY IT IF... (Bible Memorization Activity)

**Directions:** Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. When everyone is ready, turn the sign over so they can no longer read it. Today's Bible verse says:

**"But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24**





For each round, have the kids stand up and say the Bible verse if they match the descriptions below. Tell the kids to “Say it if...”

- You’re the oldest kid in your family.
- You really dislike spiders.
- You have 2 or more pets.
- You like cake more than ice cream.
- You ever sing in the shower.
- You have a hole in your sock.
- You were born in a different state/province.

After using the above suggestions, ask the kids if they want to make any up.

**Question:** Why do you think God is so interested in the kinds of friends we have?

## **FRIENDSHIP PRAYER KNOT** (Group Prayer Activity)

**Directions:** Today we discussed finding friends that will “stick closer than a brother.” Now we will have the chance to see this in action. Tell your group to get in a tight circle, standing shoulder to shoulder. Tell everyone to reach into the circle with their right hand and grab the hand of someone across the circle. Next, tell everyone to reach into the circle with their left hand and grab a different person’s hand. It’s important that everyone is holding the hands of two different people. Challenge your group to untangle themselves and make a circle without breaking the chain of hands. Consider the age and abilities of your group when determining how much help to give them.

Once your group is in a circle and holding hands, have them take a seat. Choose a kid in the circle to share their name and a prayer request. Everyone should listen carefully to the request, but encourage the two kids on either side of her to pay special attention. Those two kids should remember her request and pray for her over the coming week. Continue around the circle sharing requests. Finish by closing in a group prayer.

