**WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!**

I’m so glad that we’re throwing a party this month in SURPRISE KIDS. One of my favorite parts of any party is FRIENDS. This month we will be talking about friendship.

Friendship is so important and we need to celebrate it! We know that friendship really matters to God. He wants us to BE good friends to others, and He wants us to have friends around us who can support us and help us. Today, we’ll take a look at some verses in the book of Ecclesiastes that explain why friendship is such a big deal.

A lot of people believe that Ecclesiastes was written by King Solomon—the son of King David. When Solomon was a young king, God gave him the chance to ask for anything he wanted, and God promised to give it to him. Solomon could have asked for riches or fame or victory over his enemies . . . but instead, he asked God for wisdom.

Sure enough, God gave Solomon the wisdom he asked for, and Solomon is known as one of the wisest men who ever lived. Let’s check out these words from Ecclesiastes and discover why friendship is so important.

Why is friendship important? Well, for one thing, **FRIENDS GET MORE DONE.**

Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:9 and read **“Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.“**

Think about all the great things friends can do when they work together . . . like making music in a band. Sure, you can play the drums by yourself. But it’s WAY more fun to rock out with a full band. How about going camping in your backyard? If you really tried, you could probably set up a tent by yourself, but it would be WAY easier with a friend. Plus, then you get to share s’mores and laugh together by the campfire! When friends put their talents and hard work together, they can get more done. “That’s one cool thing about friendship . . . but there’s much more.

**FRIENDS HELP EACH OTHER.**

Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:10 and read, **“Suppose either person falls down. Then the one can help the other one up. But suppose a person falls down and doesn’t have anyone to help them up. Then feel sorry for that person!”**

A friend might literally help you get up if you fall down. A friend can also help you feel better when you’ve had a bad day. Maybe a friend who’s really tall can help you reach something that you need on the top shelf. Maybe your friend who’s good at math can show you how to divide fractions in a way you can understand. Friends can help each other with ANYTHING! Friends get more done. And friends help each other. But what else? Let’s see!”

**FRIENDS STAND UP FOR EACH OTHER.**

Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:12 and read, **“One person could be overpowered. But two people can stand up for themselves.”**

If you’ve ever felt alone trying to find somewhere to sit at lunch, you know how good it feels when a friend invites you to sit at their table. If you’ve ever been picked on by someone mean and had a friend come to your rescue, you know how important it is that friends stand up for each other. Hopefully YOU’VE stood up for a friend, too!”

**FRIENDS TRUST GOD TOGETHER.**  “What else can we find out about friendship in this passage from Ecclesiastes? Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:12 and read, “**A rope made out of three cords isn’t easily broken.**

A rope is made from different strands that are tied together. One strand by itself wouldn’t be very strong. But with two strands, it’s much stronger. A rope made with three strands is even stronger than that. Friendship is like that, too. Two friends are better than one person alone. But it gets even BETTER when you add a third. Also, a lot of people think there’s another idea here about the rope made of three cords. Your friendship is STRONGEST when it’s between you . . . your friend . . . and God.

Friends trust God together. When you’re facing hard things, or you’re just not sure what to do, you can ask a friend to pray for you. Or maybe you could talk to God together. Your friend might remind you of another time when God came through for you or of a Bible verse that promises that God will be with you. When you share tough things with a friend, both of you can ask God for help

In these verses from Ecclesiastes, we can find four very important things that are true about friends:

* Friends get more done.
* Friends help each other.
* Friends stand up for each other.
* Friends trust God together.

We should try to be friends with everyone. But of course, all of us have friends who we choose to spend time with and listen to most of all. When it comes to the people who you’re CLOSEST to, it’s important to find friends who will help you trust God. Your closest friends should be able to help you love God and love others.

That’s why you should choose your friends carefully. And remember, we should also choose to BE this kind of friend to others as well. Let’s ask God to help us to have good friendships that will help us grow closer to Him.

**PRAY:** Dear God, thank You for giving us the gift of friendship. We know that we can’t go through this life alone. Friends really do help each other in so many ways. We want to have friendships that help us grow closer to You every day. We know we need to make the wise choice when it comes to choosing our friends, so please give us Your wisdom. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

