



## Friendship curriculum ideas

*Friendship study materials are meant to be used and reused, so don't send them to the recycle bin after your first use! Here are some great ideas, many of them generated by Friendship Groups, for keeping the materials fresh.*

We'd love to hear your creative ideas, too! Email us at [friendship@friendship.org](mailto:friendship@friendship.org).

### Thematic Re-uses of Sessions:

- **Baptism:** *The Spirit, Our Helper* Unit 5, Session 1. Session concept: We are baptized to show that we belong to Jesus and to his church.
- **Lord's Supper/Communion:** *The Spirit, Our Helper* Unit 5, Session 3. Session concept: When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we share in what Jesus has done for us.
- **Advent/Christmas:** *Jesus, Our Savior* Unit 1, Session 1. Session concept: God kept the promise to send Jesus, our Savior. (See also the [Friendship Christmas Book](#).)
- **Holy Week/Easter:** *Jesus, Our Savior* Unit 6, Sessions 1-4. Sessions on Palm Sunday, Passion Week, Good Friday & Easter, Doubting Thomas. (See also the [Friendship Easter Book](#).)
- **Ascension Day:** *The Spirit, Our Helper* Unit 1, Session 2. Session concept: Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that God would send the Holy Spirit.
- **Pentecost:** *The Spirit, Our Helper* Unit 1, Session 3. Session concept: Jesus' promise came true when the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost.
- **Stewardship:** *God, Our Father* Unit 1, Session 3. Session concept: God said, "Take care of my world."
- **Giving:** *The Spirit, Our Helper* Unit 4, Session 4: Session concept: We give to show our thanks for all that God does for us.

- **Trinity Study:** Reuse the following 16 Friendship Bible Study sessions to lead your group through a study of the three persons of the Trinity:
  - From *God, Our Father*
    - Unit 1, God Created the World: sessions 1, 2, & 4
  - From *Jesus, Our Savior*
    - Unit 1, Jesus Comes: session 1.
    - Unit 6, Jesus Dies and Is Risen: sessions 2 & 3
  - From *The Spirit, Our Helper*
    - Unit 1, The Spirit Comes: sessions 2 & 3
    - Unit 4, The Spirit Makes Us One: sessions 1, 2, 3, & 4
    - Unit 5, The Spirit Helps Us Believe: sessions 1, 2, 3, & 4
  - Plus, make a banner that reinforces the theme of the Trinity: directions are in the *Expressing Faith in Jesus Resource Kit*.

## **Friendship Bible Studies:**

### **Jesus, Our Savior**

#### → **Unit 1, Session 4:**

- **Apostle Hike:** Make the lesson of Jesus calling his disciples come alive by taking an “apostle hike.” Ask 12 people to act the parts of the apostles, and plant them in various places outside your church or meeting place. Then have the rest of the group go find them, singing songs to call them from their fishing and other activities to follow Jesus. [--Friendship group at St. Theresa’s, Federal Way, WA]
- **Disciple Puppets:** Ask 12 group members to play the part of a disciple by holding a disciple puppet (provided in the Group Leader’s Packet) attached with glue to a chopstick. Place 12 cups of Kiddy Dough (available in boxes of 21 at craft stores) near the picture of Jesus from the previous session. Have a narrator call the name of each disciple, to which the actor will respond by coming forward and placing the puppet into one of the cups. Eventually all 12 disciples will stand beside Jesus. [--Friendship group at Calvin Christian Reformed Church, Muskegon, MI]

## **Friendship Life Studies:**

### **Growing Closer to God**

- **A song from the quiet center:** Sing a song written in response to this Life Study by members of a Friendship group [Ashland Bible Church, Ashland, OR]. Jill Bevenssee wrote beautiful lyrics, which inspired Brent Olstad to set them to music. The sheet music and an MP3 of “Thanks Be Unto Thee, O God” are available at [www.friendship.org/sing](http://www.friendship.org/sing).

## Living God's Way:

- 10 Commandment Prayer Journals: Further explore what you've learned in your study of the 10 commandments in a journal. Here are some ideas for prompts:
  - Session 3: Speaking respectfully about God. Write down some loving words about our Holy God. Tell Him how great He is. Or, in large letters, write down the Holy Name of Jesus. Decorate it with beauty.
  - Session 4: Honoring God; taking time to be with God and His people. Tell God all of the things you like best about going to church or Friendship.
  - Session 5: Showing respect for those who care for you. Write a prayer of thanks for the people who take care of you. Ask God to bless them.
  - Session 6: Respecting life; treating people as you want them to treat you. Write down the name of a person who has hurt you in some way. Now draw a heart around their name. Copy these words: I choose to love, not hate.  
[--Friendship group at St. Joseph's, Erie, PA]

## Psalms:

- Psalms symbols: Glue your psalms symbols to wooden craft sticks to make them more durable and reusable. [--Friendship group at Trinity United Methodist Church, Erie, PA]