

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



Note: Page 1 of this overview presents a summary of each resource. The following pages outline the content of each resource in greater detail.

FRIENDSHIP BIBLE STUDIES present God's Word. The nineteen units (each with four sessions and a review session) are grouped into three major sections:

God, Our Father (OT) - Seven units tell the story of God's creation, God's covenant relationship with his people, and God's promise to send a Savior. God loves and cares for us too.

Jesus, Our Savior (NT) - Six units are devoted to the stories about Jesus' life from his birth to his resurrection as told in the four gospels. God's promise to send a Savior was fulfilled; that good news is still offered to us today.

The Spirit, Our Helper (NT) - Six units highlight the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church as told in the book of Acts. The Holy Spirit also works in our lives today.

EXPRESSING FAITH IN JESUS answers the why and how questions church leaders often ask about including people with cognitive impairments as full church members.

Book - provides biblical guidance to churches; a description of roles for the friend, mentor, church leaders, pastor, and family; and suggestions to make the invitation, preparation, interview with church council, rehearsal, and worship ceremony meaningful.

Resource Kit - This resource for preparing people with cognitive impairments to become full members of the church includes a mentor's guide for the preparation class, a study guide to use during the preparation sessions, and a keepsake certificate to present at the worship ceremony.

LIVING GOD'S WAY is based on the Ten Commandments and offers practical guidance on living the Christian life. This newly rewritten course includes an overview session, 10 sessions on the commandments, a two-part review session, and a celebration session.

FRIENDSHIP LIFE STUDIES focus on a variety of topics. These mini-courses (each with four sessions and a review session) focus on issues our friends face in their daily lives and encourage them to apply truths from stories in God's Word to these situations. Together, friends and mentors are challenged to use their gifts to love and serve God and others at home, at work, and in their faith community.

Caring for God's World

Learning the Lord's Prayer

Faith for Tough Times

Talking to God About Your Feelings

God's Gift of Work

Telling Your Friends About Jesus

Growing Closer to God

We All Have Gifts

Helping Each Other

When People Die

PSALMS explores eight familiar psalms and the emotions they express to God. Through this study, friends and mentors will realize that God invites and accepts honest expressions of emotion from his people and express their own feelings to God more freely.

THE CHRISTMAS BOOK contains two session plans—one based on the Christmas story in Luke and one on the story of the wise men—plus a collection of songs, dramas, ideas for worship, craft activities, service projects, patterns and other resources for the Advent season.

THE EASTER BOOK contains two sessions plans—one about Palm Sunday and the other about Good Friday and Easter—plus a collection of songs, dramas, ideas for worship, craft activities, service projects, patterns, and so on for the season of Lent.

Friendship Bible Studies: God, Our Father (Old Testament)

Session Number & Title

Scripture

Session Concept

Unit 1: God Created the World

Memory Verse: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1, NIV

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| 1 | God Made the World | Genesis 1 | Our great God made the world and everything in it from nothing. |
| 2 | God Made People | Genesis 1:26-31; 2:21-25 | God loves people. He made them special—different from the rest of creation and different from each other. |
| 3 | God's Gave People Work | Genesis 2:8-15, 19-20 | God said, "Take care of my world." |
| 4 | God's World Was Spoiled | Genesis 3 | God's world was spoiled when Adam and Eve disobeyed. |

Unit 2: God Makes a Promise

Memory Verse: "I will be your God." Genesis 17:7, NIV

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| 1 | Noah (Building the Ark) | Genesis 6:9-7:16 | God saved Noah and his family and the animals from the flood. |
| 2 | Noah (The Flood) | Genesis 7:11-9:17 | God promised never to destroy the world with a flood again. |
| 3 | Abraham and Sarah | Genesis 12:1-10; 13:1-3; 15:5; 18:1-5; 21:1-3; 22:17-18 | Abraham obeyed God's call, and God kept his promise to Abraham. |
| 4 | Isaac and Rebekah | Genesis 24 | God continued to keep the promise made to Abraham by providing a wife for Isaac. |

Unit 3: God Cares for His People

Memory Verse: "May the LORD bless you and take good care of you." Numbers 6:24, NIV

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| 1 | Jacob (The Blessing from Isaac) | Genesis 27:1-39 | God forgives us and takes care of us even when we do wrong. |
| 2 | Jacob (The Dream) | Genesis 27:41-28:22 | God cared for Jacob when he was alone and afraid. |
| 3 | Joseph and His Brothers | Genesis 37; 39:1-4 | God cared for Joseph, and God cares for us just as God promised. |
| 4 | Joseph in Egypt | Genesis 39:1-4; 41:46-45:28 | God kept his promise to care for Joseph; God used Joseph to care for others. |

Unit 4: God Helps His People

Memory Verse: "The LORD will watch over your life no matter where you go." Psalm 121:8, NIV

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| 1 | Moses (The Burning Bush) | Exodus 1:1-14; 2:23-25; 3; 4:1-17 | God saw that his people were suffering and chose Moses to help them. |
| 2 | Moses (The Exodus) | Exodus 5:22; 6:1-8; 12:31-42; 13:17-18; 14; 15 | Our great and loving God saved the people from Pharaoh and his men. |
| 3 | Moses (Manna from Heaven) | Exodus 16 | God helped his hungry people by sending them food. |
| 4 | Moses (The Ten Commandments) | Exodus 19; 20:1-17; Matthew 22:37-39 | God taught his people to love God and others. |

Unit 5: God Is Faithful

Memory Verse: "I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go." Joshua 1:9, NIV

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| 1 | Rahab and the Spies | Joshua 2 | Rahab trusted God to keep her safe. |
| 2 | Joshua (The Jericho Walls) | Joshua 5:13-6:25 | God gave the people victory and saved Rahab and her family just as God had promised. |
| 3 | Ruth and Naomi | Ruth 1 | God showed his faithfulness and love to Naomi by providing a friend and helper. |
| 4 | Ruth and Boaz | Ruth 2-4 | God showed his faithfulness to Naomi and Ruth by providing what they needed. |

*Note: Each unit includes a review session.

Unit 6: God Works Through David

Memory Verse: "The LORD is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need." Psalm 23:1, NIV

1	David the Shepherd	1 Samuel 17:34-37; Psalm 23	God protected David when he cared for the sheep.
2	David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17:1-54	God used David to save his people.
3	David Anointed as King	1 Samuel 16:1-13	God knew that David was the right person to be king.
4	David and Mephibosheth	2 Samuel 9	David showed his love for God by helping others.

Unit 7: God Gives People Hope

Memory Verse: "[God] watches over those who put their hope in his faithful love." Psalm 33:18, NIV

1	Elijah (Fire from Heaven)	1 Kings 18:16-39	Our great God is the only one who could answer Elijah's prayers.
2	Elisha (Oil for the Widow)	2 Kings 4:1-7	God provided for a starving widow and her sons, and God provides for us.
3	Daniel's Friends in the Fiery Furnace	Daniel 3	Our great and faithful God saved Daniel's friends from the fiery furnace.
4	Daniel (Lions' Den)	Daniel 6	Daniel believed that the God in whom he trusted could deliver him from the lions' den.

Friendship Bible Studies: Jesus, Our Savior (New Testament)

Unit 1: Jesus Comes

Memory Verse: "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son." John 3:16, NIV

1	God's People Were Waiting	Luke 1:5-38, 57-58; 2:1-7	God kept the promise to send Jesus, our Savior.
2	Boy Jesus at the Temple	Luke 2:41-51	Jesus showed Joseph and Mary that he came to bring people close to God again.
3	John Prepares the Way for Jesus	Matthew 3:1-17	John came to tell people that they need Jesus to bring them back to God.
4	Calling the Disciples	Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-17; 3:13-19; John 15:14-15	Jesus invites us to be his friends.

Unit 2: Jesus Heals

Memory Verse: "I will praise the Lord. I won't forget anything he does for me. He forgives all my sins. He heals all my sicknesses." Psalm 103:2-3, NIV

1	The Man Who Couldn't Walk	Luke 5:17-26	Jesus can forgive and heal people because he is God's Son.
2	The Woman Who Touched Jesus' Clothes	Mark 5:24-34	The woman trusted that Jesus had the power to heal her.
3	The Man at the Pool	John 5:1-9	Jesus shows compassion to those who have suffered a very long time.
4	Ten Men with Leprosy	Luke 17:11-19	Jesus wants us to thank him for his healing power.

Unit 3: Jesus Teaches

Memory Verse: "Here is my command. Love each other, just as I have loved you." John 15:12

1	The Lost Sheep/The Lost Coin	Luke 15:1-10	Jesus loves and cares for each one of us.
2	The Big Dinner	Luke 14:15-23	Jesus wants us to respond to his love.
3	The Unforgiving Servant	Matthew 18:21-35	Jesus teaches us to forgive others.
4	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37	Jesus teaches us to help people who need our help.

Unit 4: Jesus Cares

Memory Verse: "Turn all your worries over to [Jesus]. He cares about you!" 1 Peter 5:7, NIV

1	Feeding the Five Thousand	John 6:1-15	Jesus cares for us and provides for our needs.
2	Walking on Water	Matthew 14:22-33	Even when we have trouble believing, Jesus saves us.
3	Jesus Makes Bartimaeus See	Mark 10:46-52	Jesus shows concern especially for those who come to him with great need.
4	Raising Jairus's Daughter	Luke 8:40-56, 49-56	Jesus cares when we are sad; he promises life and true happiness to his people forever.

Unit 5: Jesus Loves

Memory Verse: "Christ has accepted you. So accept one another in order to bring praise to God." Romans 15:7, NIV

1	Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus accepts and forgives anyone who will receive him.
2	The Children	Mark 10:13-16	People of all ages are important to Jesus.
3	The Woman at the Well	John 4:1-42	Jesus accepts even people who we think are our enemies.
4	A Sinful Woman	Luke 7:36-50	Jesus is glad to receive our thanks for accepting and forgiving us.

Unit 6: Jesus Dies and Is Risen

Memory Verse: "Then everyone who believes in [Jesus] can live with God forever." John 3:15

1	Palm Sunday	Luke 19:28-44	We need to receive Jesus, God's Son, as our Savior and King.
2	Passion Week	Matthew 26:36-75	Jesus our King is the only One who can save us from our sins.
3	Good Friday/Easter	John 19:16, 20:18	Jesus died and rose again for us.
4	Doubting Thomas	John 20:19-31	Jesus helps us believe that he is our living Savior.

Friendship Bible Studies: The Spirit, Our Helper (New Testament)

Unit 1: The Spirit Comes

Memory Verse: "And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end." Matthew 28:20, NIV

1	Jesus Is Alive	John 21:1-14	Jesus is alive and gathers his friends again.
2	Jesus Makes a Promise (Ascension)	John 14:15-18; 26; Acts 1:1-11	Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that God would send the Holy Spirit.
3	God Sends the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)	Acts 2:1-41	Jesus' promise came true when the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost.
4	The Holy Spirit Is with Philip	Acts 8:26-40	The Holy Spirit helps people teach and learn about Jesus.

Unit 2: The Spirit Helps Peter

Memory Verse: ". . . you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." Acts 1:8, NIV

1	Peter and the Man Who Couldn't Walk	Acts 3:1-11	The Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to heal the man who couldn't walk.
2	Peter and Simon, the Magician	Acts 8:9-25	The Holy Spirit gave Peter the courage to go against evil.
3	Peter and Dorcas	Acts 9:36-43	The Holy Spirit gave Peter amazing power to make Dorcas alive again.
4	Peter and Cornelius	Acts 10	The Holy Spirit helps us accept everyone who loves Jesus.

Unit 3: The Holy Spirit Helps Paul

Memory Verse: "You received the Holy Spirit, who makes you God's child." Romans 8:15, NIV

1	Paul Is Changed	Acts 9:1-22	Jesus changed Paul from an enemy into a friend.
2	Paul Preaches	Acts 14:1-20	The Holy Spirit helped Paul tell many people about Jesus.
3	Paul Escapes	Acts 23:12-35	The Holy Spirit kept Paul safe when he was in danger.
4	Paul Is Shipwrecked	Acts 27-28:2	The Holy Spirit used Paul to keep others safe during the storm.

Unit 4: The Spirit Makes Us One

Memory Verse: "The Holy Spirit makes you one in every way." Ephesians 4:3, NIV

1	We Are the Church	Acts 2:41-47	People who love Jesus belong to God's loving family, the church.
2	We Sing	Acts 16:16-39	We sing to show that we love God and believe in him.
3	We Pray	Acts 12:1-19	We pray to tell God that we love him and to ask him for what we need.
4	We Give	Luke 21:1-4	We give to show our thanks for all that God does for us.

Unit 5: The Spirit Helps Us Believe

Memory Verse: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. . . ." Acts 16:31, NIV

1	We Are Baptized (The Ethiopian, Lydia, the Jailer)	Acts 8:26-39; 16:11-40	We are baptized to show that we belong to Jesus and to his church.
2	We Profess Our Faith (Paul, a Friend of Jesus)	Acts 9:20-31; Romans 10:9-10	God wants us to tell God's family, the church, that we believe in Jesus and want to serve him.
3	We Remember Jesus' Death (The Last Supper)	Mark 14:12-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we share in what Jesus has done for us.
4	We Live for Jesus (Barnabas and Stephen)	Acts 4:32-37; 6:1-7	The Holy Spirit helps us live for Jesus.

Unit 6: The Spirit Teaches Us How to Live

Memory Verse: "The Spirit produces . . . joy . . . patience . . . kindness . . . self-control." Galatians 5:22-23, NCV

1	Joy: Miracle at Cana	John 2:1-11	The Holy Spirit gives us joy to share with others like Jesus did.
2	Patience: The Story of the Farmer	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	We can be patient like Jesus when we trust God to make things right in heaven.
3	Kindness: The Widow's Son	Luke 7:11-17	We can show kindness to others like Jesus did.
4	Self-Control: Jesus' Temptation	Matthew 4:1-11	When we're tempted to do wrong things, we can say no like Jesus did.

EXPRESSING FAITH IN JESUS (Church Membership for People with Cognitive Impairments)

Book

Introduction: A Call to Share God's Love More Fully

Section One: Welcoming and Including People with Cognitive Impairments

Section Two: Walking Alongside Those Desiring to Express Faith in Jesus

Section Three: Journeying Together as a Community of Believers

Reproducible Resources:

- Seven Things I Want You to Know and Do
- Sample Questions for Interviews with Church Council
- Sample Liturgy for Worship Ceremony
- Ideas for Including Friends in Ministry

Resource Kit

Preparing to Express My Faith in Jesus: A Program Planner Based on the Friendship Bible Studies Series (Mentor Guide)

- Suggested Outline for Preparation Class
- Suggested Preparation Activities

Preparing to Express My Faith in Jesus (Study Guide)

- Father, We Love You
- I Believe God Is My Father
- God Still Loves Me
- The ABCs of Salvation: Admit
- I Believe Jesus Is My Savior
- The ABC's of Salvation: Believe
- I Believe the Spirit Is My Helper
- The Spirit Helps Me Believe
- The ABCs of Salvation: Commit

Keepsake Certificate

- I Express My Faith
- God Is My Father
- Jesus Is My Savior
- The Spirit Is My Helper
- I Remember
- We Share Your Joy!

LIVING GOD'S WAY (The Ten Commandments)

LOVING GOD

1 Trusting God Alone	Judges 6:1-10, 15; 7:1-25; 8:28	God blesses those who trust the one true God.
2 Worshiping God Alone	Exodus 32:1-20, 30-32; 33:12-14; 34:1-7a	We must worship only God.
3 Speaking Respectfully about God	Job 1:1-22; 2:1-10; 42:10-16	Job spoke well of God even when everything went wrong.
4 Honoring God	Nehemiah 8; Hebrews 10:22, 25	God's people come together to honor him because God is faithful.

LOVING OTHERS

5 Showing Respect	Ruth 1-4; Ephesians 6:1-3	God blesses those who respect authority.
6 Respecting Life	2 Kings 6:8-23	God wants us to care for others, even those who are unkind and want to harm us.
7 Respecting the Gift of Sexuality	2 Samuel 11	Sexually impure thoughts and actions create lots of trouble.
8 Respecting Things That Belong to Others	Luke 19:1-10; Ephesians 4:28	Jesus changed Zacchaeus from a stealer to a giver.
9 Speaking the Truth	1 Kings 21:1-19; Ephesians 4:15	Lying causes great harm to others.
10 Living in Gratitude	Genesis 16:1-15; 21:1-20; Philippians 4:12	The Lord is good and gives us what we need.

Friendship Life Studies

CARING FOR GOD'S WORLD

1 God Made the World	Genesis 1:1-25	God made the world and everything in it.
2 God Gave Adam a Job	Genesis 1:26-31; 2:8-9, 15, 19-20	God wants us to take care of his world.
3 Sin Spoiled Everything God Made	Genesis 3:1-6, 17-19	God wants us to take care of his world, even if it's hard to do.
4 God's World Made Perfect Again	Isaiah 11:6-9; Revelation 21:1	Someday God will make his world perfect again.

FAITH FOR TOUGH TIMES

1 Tough Times at Home	Ruth 1-4	We can trust God to help us through difficult times at home.
2 Tough Times at Work	John 13:27, 38; 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-17	We can trust God to help us through difficult times at work.
3 Tough Times with Friends	1 Samuel 20; 2 Samuel 9:7, 13; John 15:12-15	We can trust Jesus to be our friend when we have difficulties with other friends.
4 Tough Times with Myself	John 5:1-9	We can trust God to help us with frustration and our own limitations.

GOD'S GIFT OF WORK (currently out of print)

1 What is Work?	Genesis 2:15-20	God gives us many things to do.
2 Why Do We Work?	Acts 9:36-42	God is pleased when we do what he gives (calls).
3 Just Keep Trying	Genesis 37:2; 39:3-6; 41:41-57; 58:20	God is happy when we keep trying.
4 Working Together	Exodus 35:10, 35; 36:1-7; 39:42-43	God wants us to work.

GROWING CLOSER TO GOD

1 I Can Listen to God	Luke 10:38-42	Listening to God's Word helps us grow closer to God.
2 I Can Talk to God	Daniel 6	Talking to God every day helps us grow closer to God.
3 I Can Praise God with Music	Exodus 13:17; 14; 15:1-2, 19-21	Praising God with music helps us grow closer to God.
4 I Can Worship with God's Family	Acts 16:11-15	Worshiping with God's family helps us grow closer to God.

HELPING EACH OTHER (currently out of print)

1	Helping People Who Are Close to Us	John 13:1-15	Jesus wants us to help those who are close to us—as he did.
2	Helping People Who Are Sad	Luke 7:11-17	Jesus wants us to help those who are sad—as he did.
3	Helping People Others Don't Like	Mark 1:40-45	Jesus wants us to help people others don't like—as he did.
4	Helping People Who Are in Trouble	Luke 10:25-37	Jesus wants us to help anyone we meet who is in trouble—as he did.

LEARNING THE LORD'S PRAYER

1	Our Father in Heaven	Luke 15:11-32 (The Prodigal Son)	We can talk to God about anything because God is the best Father we could ever imagine.
2	Hallowed Be Your Name Your Will Be Done	Joshua 6:1-7; 20-21 (Battle of Jericho)	Because God our Father is so great and loving, we want to obey God.
3	Give Us Today Our Daily Bread	1 Kings 17:1-16 (Elijah and the Widow)	God our Father wants us to ask for what we need.
4	Forgive Us Our Debts . . .	Jonah 1; 2:10-3:3; 3:10-4:4	God our Father loves us so much that he forgives us for all the bad things we do.

TALKING TO GOD ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS

1	God, I'm Lonely!	Matthew 26:36-46	God cares about how we feel. Let's tell God when we feel lonely.
2	God, I'm Afraid!	Acts 27:1-44	God cares about how we feel. Let's tell God when we feel afraid.
3	God, I'm Angry!	Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:11, 15-18; Luke 19:45-46; John 2:13-16	God cares about how we feel. Let's talk to God when we feel angry.
4	God, I'm Safe!	John 10:1-16	God wants us to feel safe. Let's tell God when we feel safe.

TELLING YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT JESUS

1	Everyone Needs a Friend!	Luke 10:38-42	God gives us friends who welcome us, listen to us, and care about us.
2	Jesus Is Our Best Friend	Luke 5:17-26	Jesus, our best friend, can help us when other friends cannot. He is our Savior.
3	Come and Meet Jesus	John 1:35-51	We want to tell and show others about Jesus, our best friend.
4	Growing Together as Jesus' Friends	Acts 12:1-19	Christian friends help each other grow closer to Jesus.

WE ALL HAVE GIFTS

1	What Are Spiritual Gifts?	Acts 6:1-7; 8:26-40 (Philip) Acts 9:36-43 (Tabitha)	God gives everyone spiritual gifts to share with others.
2	What Are My Spiritual Gifts?	Exodus 3:7, 9-10; 4:10-16 (Moses and Aaron)	God gives everyone spiritual gifts to share with others.
3	What Is the Purpose of Spiritual Gifts?	Acts 2:42-46; 12:1-16 (The Fellowship of Believers, Peter's Praying Friends)	God gives everyone spiritual gifts to share with others.
4	How Can I Use My Gifts to Serve God and Others?	Acts 16:16-34	God gives everyone spiritual gifts to share with others.

WHEN PEOPLE DIE

1	Why Do People Die?	Genesis 1-3; 4:1-16	People die because sin entered the world.
2	What Happens When People Die?	Acts 1:1-10; John 14:1-6a	People who believe in Jesus go to live with him in heaven.
3	What Happens to Us When People We Love Die?	John 11:17-44	When people we love die, we feel sad, but we have peace when we know they are with Jesus.
4	What Will Happen to Me When I Die?	Revelation 21:1-5a	When I die I will live with Jesus. I will get a new and perfect body and live in a new and better world.

PSALMS: God Cares How I Feel

Session Number & Title	Bible Story	Scripture	Key Biblical Truth
1 In Awe of God	Creation	Psalms 8; Genesis 1 and 2	God made the world and gave me an important place in it.
2 Trusting in God	David the Shepherd Boy	Psalms 23; 1 Samuel 17:34-37; John 10:1-21; Luke 15:3-7	I can trust in God's care for me in every situation in my life.
3 Feeling Sad, Feeling Down	David Hides	Psalms 13; selections from 1 Samuel 18-22 (see also Isaiah 49:15-16; Hebrews 13:5)	God is present even in the darkest of times.
4 I Belong to God	Parable of the Lost Sheep	Psalms 100; Matthew 18:10-14; Luke 15: 3-6 (see also Ephesians 2:10)	I belong to God and his family.
5 When I Am Afraid	Moses and the Red Sea, David and Goliath, Jesus Calms the Storm	Psalms 46; Exodus 14 & 15; 1 Samuel 17; Mark 4:35-41	God will protect me when I am afraid.
6 Waiting in Hope	The Church Prays for Peter	Psalms 130; Acts 12:1-19	God works in His time – not ours.
7 I'm Sorry!	David Sins, David Repents	Psalms 51:1-12; 2 Samuel 11; 12:13 (see also Psalm 32:3-4)	God forgives me when I'm really sorry.
8 Close to God	Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't See	Psalms 139:1-18; John 9:1-12, 35-38	God made me and understands me completely.
9 Review Session			
10 Celebration Session			



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