



Friendship

Purpose: To evaluate what kind of friend you want to be and to evaluate who our influential friends are.

Supplies:

- Paper
- Markers
- Pens

ACTIVITY

Toy Story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMN4JZ8crVY>

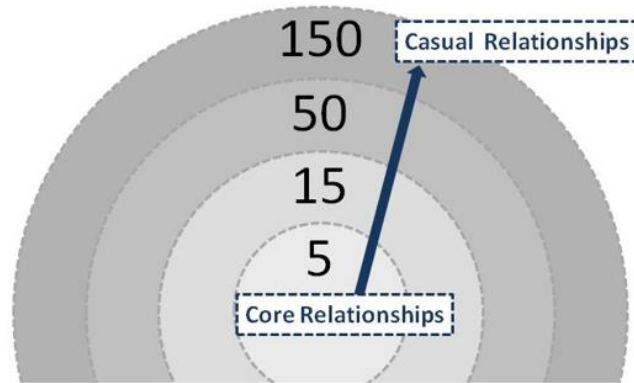
ACTIVITY

A Good Friend Q&A (both activities 10-15 minutes)

Go around the room to allow each teen to answer the questions below. Remind them that each teen can answer a question, so be respectful by allowing each person to answer their question.

- If you're a good friend, would you give away \$20 that you were saving for a rainy day?
- If you're a good friend, would you get out of a warm bed at 2am in the dead of winter to give them a ride?
- If you're a good friend, would you allow him/her to take all the glory for something you did?
- If you're a good friend, would you "rat" on him/her for money?
- Would a good friend allow you to do something that he/she knows is going to hurt you or already has hurt you?
- Would a good friend allow you to cheat off of him/her in a test situation?
- If you're a good friend, after a big fight with each other, would you still take the blame for something they did?
- Would a good friend come to punches before letting a friend drive drunk?
- If you're a good friend, would you buy him/her a birthday present even though he/she forgot yours?
- Would a good friend stay with you when you are down, instead of going out on the town?

LARGE GROUP



Courtesy: actionforinnovation.com

Share with group the Dunbar Relational Capacity Diagram (above). Give them a few minutes to fill in the circles on their sheet (have them start with the closest relationships first)

Questions:

1. *How did you decide who was in your inside circle? In the middle circle? The outside circle?*
2. *What makes a closest friend different from other friends?*
3. *Have your friends moved from one circle to another? When and why?*
4. *Some people have many best friends while others have one special friend; some have more casual friends and some have more acquaintances*
5. *What did you learn about your own friendships from this activity?*
6. *How old are your closest friends? Casual friends? Why do people choose friends of a different age? What are the advantages or disadvantages of having older people or adults as friends?*

SMALL GROUP

Discussion Questions:

1. **What are some qualities of a great friend?**
2. **What is an example of a time when one of your friends showed qualities of a great friend?**
3. **Do you tend to be a quantity of friends or quality of friends person? WHY?**
4. **Have you ever lost a friendship? What happened?**

5. What is the most important quality in your friendships?

WRAP UP

CHAIR ILLUSTRATION (use only if your room is set-up appropriately)

Set-up a sturdy chair in the middle of the room. Find 2 volunteers: a physically strong teen and a teen that would appear weaker. Have the “strong” teen stand on the chair and the “weaker” teen stand next to the chair.

The object is for you on the chair to pull the other person up onto the chair only using one arm. You on the floor are going to pull down the person from the chair. You both need the lock hands. *Begin when you think they understand and are ready. What should happen here is the teen on the chair is coming down because the person on the floor also has gravity to help up out!*

So what happened here? Why did our smaller and “weaker” person able to pull our “stronger” person off the chair?

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. What kind of friend do you want to be?**
- 2. What friends in your life are pulling you in the wrong direction?**
- 3. What friends are pulling you in the right direction?**

Optional Content

SMALL GROUP

We are going to look up verses from the book of Proverbs that could help us all decide on what kind of friends we should hang out with. Life is often confusing and crazy. So, where can we turn for answers? The book of Proverbs is like a guide book for wise living. We are going to look up verses and together we are making a chart. One side is for the “GOOD FRIENDS” and the other side is for “BAD FRIENDS”. You all get to decide on which side that kind of person belongs and write why.

Some teens might want to take this home with them, so have extra paper and pens for them.

VERSES:

- Proverbs 12:15
- Proverbs 22:24-24
- Proverbs 14:7

- Proverbs 27:6
- Proverbs 25:11-12
- Proverbs 13:20

Chart should look as follows:

GOOD FRIEND

BAD FRIEND

—
Proverbs 12:15 = realize needs others

Proverbs 22:24-25 = can easily become angry

Proverbs 27:6 = “wounds” of a friend can
help in the long run

Proverbs 14:7 = lacks knowledge

Proverbs 25:11-12 = rebukes from a friend
help in the long run

Proverbs 13:30 = causes harm

Proverbs 13:20 = grow wise

CHALLENGE

Read 1 Samuel 20. As you read this chapter, think about the kind of friend you want to be to others!

SALVATION VERSES

My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because servants do not know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from my Father. (*John 15:12-15*)

Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it’s just too bad, because there is no one to help him. If it is cold, two can sleep together and stay warm, but how can you keep warm by yourself? Two people can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break. (*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*)

People learn from one another, just as iron sharpens iron. (*Proverbs 27:17*)

And so encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing. (*1 Thessalonians 5:11*)

Do not be fooled. “Bad companions ruin good character.” (*1 Corinthians 15:33*)

BE AVAILABLE: Hang around so any of the teens can talk about friend decisions they may need to make.

