SEPTEMBER WEEK 1

BIBLE STORY OVERVIEW

BIBLE STORY
Better Together
Two people are better than one
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

BOTTOM LINE:
I need to make the wise choice.

MEMORY VERSE
A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble comes.
Proverbs 17:17, NIrV

MONTHLY LIFE APP
Friendship
Using your words and actions to show others you care

BASIC TRUTH
I need to make the wise choice.

This Month's Theme:
friendship.
BIBLE STORY

Do you think friendships are important?

GOD certainly thinks friendship is important. He made us to have good relationships with each other. It’s really important for us to learn how to BE a good friend and for us to have friends around us who encourage us and point us in the right direction.

There are some verses in the Bible that show us how important friendship is. We can find them in the book of Ecclesiastes.

A lot of people believe that Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, who was a king over Israel. Solomon was actually King David’s son. When Solomon became king, God offered him the choice of whatever he wanted. Solomon could have asked for ANYTHING. But he didn’t ask for a million chicken nuggets... or endless video games... or to be ten feet tall. He asked for WISDOM.

He knew that he would need wisdom from God in order to be a good king for God’s people. God gave Solomon the wisdom he asked for, and Solomon is known as one of the wisest men who ever lived.

So why is friendship so important? Well, for one thing, friends get more done.

As we read in Ecclesiastes:

"Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do."

Having a friend makes it easier to get stuff done. And that’s not all friends do. Friends help each other.
Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:10 (NIRV) 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!

Friends also stand up for each other. You see, a good friend will ALWAYS have your back.

Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIRV) and read.

“One person could be overpowered. But two people can stand up for themselves.

You might feel overwhelmed or stressed out. But whenever your friend is around ... you feel like you can take on anything. If you don’t make that layup, a good friend will be there to catch your rebounds. If you have an argument with someone, your friend can speak up for you and defend you. If you’re just having a no-good, terrible, very bad day, your friend will be there to listen. A good friend will ALWAYS stand up for you!

What else can we find out about friendship in this passage from Ecclesiastes?

Open the Bible to Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIRV) and read.

“One person could be overpowered. But two people can stand up for themselves.

Listen to what comes next.

“A rope made out of three cords isn’t easily broken.”

A rope made out of three cords? What does that mean?

Well, rope is made of different strands that are tightly tied together. One strand by itself wouldn’t be very strong at all. With two strands woven together, the rope is stronger. And with THREE strands? You guessed it. Even stronger still. “Friendship is like that, too. We’re MUCH stronger with good friends around us than we would be on our own.
And you know what? 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.

The thing that can REALLY make a friendship strong is when you and your friend trust in God. That way you can remind each other that God is with you . . . that God loves you . . . and that you can stand up to any challenge with God by your side. You can PRAY with your friend—and know that your friend is praying for you, too. There’s nothing better than a friendship where BOTH of you are following God!

It’s super-important for us to have strong friendships.

Friends get more done. Friends help each other. Friends stand up for each other. And most important of all . . . friends trust God together.

We should try to be friends with everyone. But when it comes to the people you’re CLOSEST to . . . those you spend most of your time with . . . those who you REALLY listen to . . . you need to ask yourself the question: does this friend help me trust God?

Choose your friends carefully.

You KNOW that someone will have a strong friendship with you if they have a strong friendship with God. That’s why it’s so important to seek out people who trust God.

Your closest friends should help you love God and love others, every single day.

Let’s talk to God and ask Him to help choose your friends carefully.
God, thank You for these verses that show us what a good friendship is all about. I pray as we go out this week, that we act out the wisdom that You gave Solomon. Please help us look for people in our lives who love You. We want to have friends around us who help us trust You—and we want to be that kind of friend for them, too.

We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.
HOW YOUR ELEMENTARY KID CAN STAY CONNECTED

FAITH STARTER KIT
If it is your first time asking Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, we want to celebrate with you! You can go to cottonwood.org/kids and we would love to send you a bible and resources!

BIBLE BUCKS
Your child can earn bible bucks each week by completing challenges or homework

VIDEO LESSONS
Your child can learn bible stories and engage in worship

For more information, follow Cottonwood Kids on facebook and instagram (cottonwood_kds)
Friendship means using your words and actions to show others you care.

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

**Day 1**

**A Good Friend Is . . .**

All month long we are talking about friendship which is using your words and actions to show others you care. Flip over this page and color the picture of the two friends. As you are doing this, think of all the things you like about your friends. Write or draw these things all around the picture. Try and fill up as much space as you can!

Know that God wants you to choose good friends!

**Day 2**

**Two Are Better Than One**

This week we learned all about friendship and how God wants us to have friends. **Ask an adult to help you look up Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.** These verses tell us that two people are better than one. They can help each other with everything. Can you think of something that is much better when you do it with someone else? Perhaps playing hide-and-go-seek or Go Fish? We are not meant to do things alone all the time. Friends make life better!

Take time to say the prayer below. After, invite someone to play a game with you.

**Dear God, Thank You for the friends that I have in my life. Help me to be a great friend to them. Amen.**

Look at God's creations all around you.

**Day 3**

**Be A Good Friend**

Grab a piece of paper and some crayons. At the top of the page rainbow-write the words **GOOD FRIEND.** Then, I want you to divide your paper into three different parts and write one word in each section: SCHOOL, PLAYGROUND, NEIGHBORHOOD. I want you to think of a way that you can be a good friend at SCHOOL, on the PLAYGROUND and in your NEIGHBORHOOD and draw a picture showing it.

Look for ways that you can be a good friend this week.

**Day 4**

**Attract Friends**

Ask an adult to help you gather a balloon, some scrap paper, and a marker. Tear the paper up into tiny pieces and place it on a flat surface. Now have an adult blow up your balloon, tie it, and draw a smiley face on it. Rub the balloon on your head for about 30 seconds and then roll it over the tiny pieces of paper. **What happens?** The tiny pieces of paper (friends) are attracted to the balloon (YOU)! It’s the same way with friendship. When we are a good friend to others, they are attracted to us and want to be our friend as well!

Ask God to help you attract the right kind of friends.
Day 1
Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week’s episode of The So & So Show.

"Click on Fun2Watch! then The So & So Show.

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3
After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked: _______________________
2. You learned: _______________________
3. You’d like to know: ________________

PREEEN
WhAt mAkEs sOmEoNE a gOoD fRiEnD?

Journal
Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.

WHAT MAKES SOMEONE A GOOD FRIEND?

Download the free Parent Cue App
AVAILABLE FOR IOS AND ANDROID DEVICES
Day 2

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

As you read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, underline all of the numbers in the passage. Then go back and circle any number greater than one.

3 > 2 > 1

It’s not that being alone is bad—and sure, there are times when working alone or spending time by yourself is important! But when it comes to most of life’s challenges, together is better!

Day 4

Remember yesterday when you prayed to thank God for a friend who was there for you when you needed them? Now it’s time to thank that friend.

Before you do, think through the situation again. Take a minute to remember how you felt, and how those feelings changed when your friend showed up for you. Think about the sacrifice they made: of their time or energy.

Then either write them a thank you note (or email or text), give them a call or video call, or go visit them. No matter how you choose to thank your friend for their help, just make sure they know how much you appreciate their friendship and how it inspires you to be a good friend too.

Day 5

Make a list of the best qualities of a few of your closest friends. Maybe they make you laugh, or they listen when you’re having a bad day. List at least five things that make them a good friend to you.

Now, flip the script. Write five things that you think are true of you when it comes to friendship. What would your friends say about you as a friend?

Compare the two lists—do you notice any differences?

- Have you chosen good friends—people who are kind, encouraging, and loyal?
- Are you being a good friend to others?
- Would people say you are selfish or selfless?

If you realize that you haven’t been as good of a friend as others have been to you, pick one thing from your friends’ list that you can work on this week. On the flipside, if you feel like you’ve been a good friend but maybe your friends haven’t been so kind to you, maybe it’s time to reach out and try to make a new friend! (Making new friends doesn’t mean giving up on your current ones, but everyone needs someone in their corner who will have their back!)