



**Opening prayer:** Jesus, you are our friend. Thank you for always hearing our prayers and helping us when we need you. Amen.

**Theme:** Qualities of a good friend

**Gospel Listening:** John 11:1-45 One family member reads the Gospel while everyone else listens quietly.

## Making Connections

**Reader:** This Gospel tells us how Jesus thought and felt about his friends, Martha and Mary, who sent word to him that their brother Lazarus was very sick. Jesus was in another village and had to go back through the region of Judea where the Jews had tried to stone him. He was willing to risk his life to help his friends.

By the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Jesus showed his love for his friends by bringing Lazarus back to life. This was a sign that Jesus is the Son of God and has power over life and death. Jesus promised that those who believe in him would live forever with him in heaven.

## Family Sharing Time

Use the questions below to guide your family discussion.

**Preschool children:** Jesus had friends. Who are your friends? How do you help your friends? How do your friends help you? Jesus is your friend, too. How can Jesus help you?

**Primary-grade children:** What do friends do? What makes a good friend? Would a good friend try to get you to do something wrong? Why or why not?

**Preteens:** Jesus was willing to risk everything for his friends because he loved them. Would you be willing "to tell on" a friend and risk losing that friendship in order to keep your friend from hurting himself/herself or others? Discuss. Do you know any situations like this? What are some qualities that a good friend should have?

## Activity

**Materials needed:** poster board, markers  
List qualities (words or phrases) of a good friend that begin with each letter of the word "friend." One example would be the quality "fair" or "faithful" for the first letter. Be creative and design a *Qualities of a Good Friend* poster to be displayed this week as a reminder that Jesus is our friend and calls us to be a good friend to others.

**Optional for preschool children:** Materials needed: paper, pencil (optional: child's photo, tape)

Trace the outline of your child's hand. Putting one letter on each finger, write the name "J-E-S-U-S." Have the child draw a picture or tape a photo of himself/herself on the palm. Talk about how Jesus is our friend.

**Suggestion of the Week:** Do something special for a friend this week.

## Praying Together

Gather around a prayer table with a Bible, crucifix, candle, and poster.

**All:** Jesus, thank you for being our friend. We want to sing this song for you.

To the tune of "B-I-N-G-O," sing: "There is a man who is our friend and Jesus is his name -o, J-e-s-u-s, J-e-s-u-s, J-e-s-u-s and Jesus is our friend now." (Repeat twice.) Give each other a sign of God's peace and love (maybe a "high five" sign).