

FRIENDSHIP

USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS
TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE. WEEK 2
K-5TH GRADE

Read Romans 15:7

DAY 1



What does it mean to accept something? Look up the word "accept" in the dictionary or ask a trusted adult to help you Google it and write the definition below. *HINT: There will probably be several definitions. Choose the one that makes the most sense when you read today's verse.*

ACCEPT: _____

To be a good friend, you have to accept one another, no matter what. To show someone acceptance means that you recognize that the other person is uniquely and wonderfully made. Acceptance says, "I choose to be your friend. I choose to accept who you are without expecting you to be anyone other than yourself."

Why should you accept others? Because Christ has accepted you! And how do you know that? Because Jesus loved you enough to give His life for you on the cross and rose again three days later so you could be forgiven. He didn't ask you to clean yourself up or fix all your mistakes. He faced the punishment for you and loves you unconditionally. What an awesome friend!

Thank God for sending Jesus to show you what a good friend looks like!

Read Romans 12:1

DAY 2

Do you treat everyone the same? This is SUPER hard. But it doesn't mean that you shouldn't try. Acceptance means that you try not to judge someone else based solely on how they look or act. It means you show patience when you have to wait for your friend to catch up. It means to stop and listen to what your friend has to say before interrupting with what you want to say. It means that you treat everyone the same.

Whoa, did you catch that? God expects us to treat everyone the same. That includes:

- the mean kid
- the kid who always gets the right answer
- the new kid
- the kid everyone picks on
- the kid who smells like cheese
- the super quiet kid

Everyone means every. *single. one.* God has accepted you. He made you and He loves you. He also made every single kid on the list above and He loves each of them the same. So be a good friend and choose to treat everyone the same—with acceptance and love.

Ask God to help accept and offer friendship to every kid.

FRIENDS
ACCEPT
ONE ANOTHER.

FRIENDSHIP

USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS
TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE. WEEK 2
K-5TH GRADE

Read Galatians 5:14

DAY 3

Back in the Old Testament, the Israelites, God's chosen people, had a list of over 600 rules they had to follow! Can you imagine learning and following over 600 rules?

Fast forward to the New Testament, when all those rules were still in effect. People like the Pharisees worked really hard to keep all these rules and to make sure everyone else did too. But Jesus came to show them (and us) that following God wasn't about a bunch of rules. Following God is about a relationship. All those rules really come down to one thing: to love or accept your neighbor as yourself.

Grab a piece of paper. Write down all the rules you can think of in any order and in any way you want to. In large letters across the center of the page write the #1 rule: Love others as you love yourself. Hang this page in a place where you'll see it everyday to remind you to be a good friend this week.

Look for ways to love and accept others as you love and accept yourself this week.

Read Philippians 2:1-2

DAY 4

Ever wonder how you make God happy? Want to know how to make God's "joy complete?" The key is found in this verse. God wants us to love each other. He wants us to agree with each other. He hates it when we argue and fight, especially when our arguments and fights are about silly things like who gets to line up first or who gets the next turn on the swings. We make God super happy when we choose to get along and agree with one another instead of insisting on our own way.

It's time to create your second backpack tag! Cut out the tag on the right, decorate it with stickers, markers or finger paint and cover it with tape on both sides. Punch a hole in the top, run ribbon or yarn through the hole and then loop it through your zipper on your backpack.

Know that you can be a good friend by choosing to accept others!

FRIENDS
ACCEPT
ONE ANOTHER.