

'Friendship With Jesus'



This material is suitable for 5 - 7 year olds.

Aim:

To show through the friendship of David and Jonathan that good friends are loyal, and that Jesus as our friend is loyal to us.

Bible focus:

1 Samuel 18:1 - 4; 19:1 - 7; 20:1 - 42.

Background:

The friendship between David and Jonathan is one of the greatest friendships there has ever been. David himself looked back on his friendship with Jonathan as one of the best things in his life (see 2 Samuel 1:26).

Their friendship had an unlikely beginning. Jonathan was the son of King Saul while David was a mere shepherd boy who had a quick rise to royal favour because he killed Goliath. However once that friendship was made, nothing was able to shake it, even though David was eventually to rob Jonathan of the throne, a fact of which Jonathan was not unaware (see 1 Samuel 20:31). The instant friendship between Jonathan and David proved to be loyal and lasting enough to withstand even the hatred and betrayal of King Saul.

After Jonathan's death in battle David searched for, and then cared for, Mephibosheth, Jonathan's crippled son. This was an unusual action at a time when the family of a displaced monarch was either killed or forced into slavery. But David treated Mephibosheth as a son saying, 'I will be kind to you for the sake of your father Jonathan' (see 2 Samuel 9:6-8, 11-13).

Introduction:

What kind of things do friends do together? (play, share toys, talk, etc.) What makes a good friend? (being kind, sharing things, not fighting, etc.)

Story:

(This story uses the figures of David and Jonathan.)

In the Bible is a special story of two friends.

This is Jonathan (hold up figure). Jonathan's father was the king and so Jonathan was a very important person (fix crown on head).

This is David (hold up figure). David was a shepherd boy who looked after sheep for his father (fix crook in hand).

One day there had been a big battle and David had won the battle for the king, Jonathan's father by killing Goliath. While the king and David were talking about the battle, Jonathan came in. As soon as he saw David he knew they were going to be good friends, and they enjoyed some good times together.

Then something sad happened. Jonathan's father, the king, began to be jealous and hate David. Everyone else liked David and this made the king more angry than ever. 'You are silly being friends with David,' the king told Jonathan. 'Why, one day he will be made the new king instead of you because everyone likes him so much.'

But Jonathan was a good friend. He wasn't jealous of David and he didn't stop being friends with him. Instead he did all he could to help David, for good friends stay friends even when it is hard to be friends.

Response:

Just like David and Jonathan were good friends we can have good friends. The best friend we can have is Jesus. We can talk with Him. He is there to help us. He is always there for us. We can ask Him to be our friend by saying sorry for things we've done wrong and asking Him to help us to live the right way. I'm going to pray now and if you would like to ask Jesus to be your friend then pray with me silently.

(Allow time for the children to pray with you by pausing during the prayer.)

Prayer:

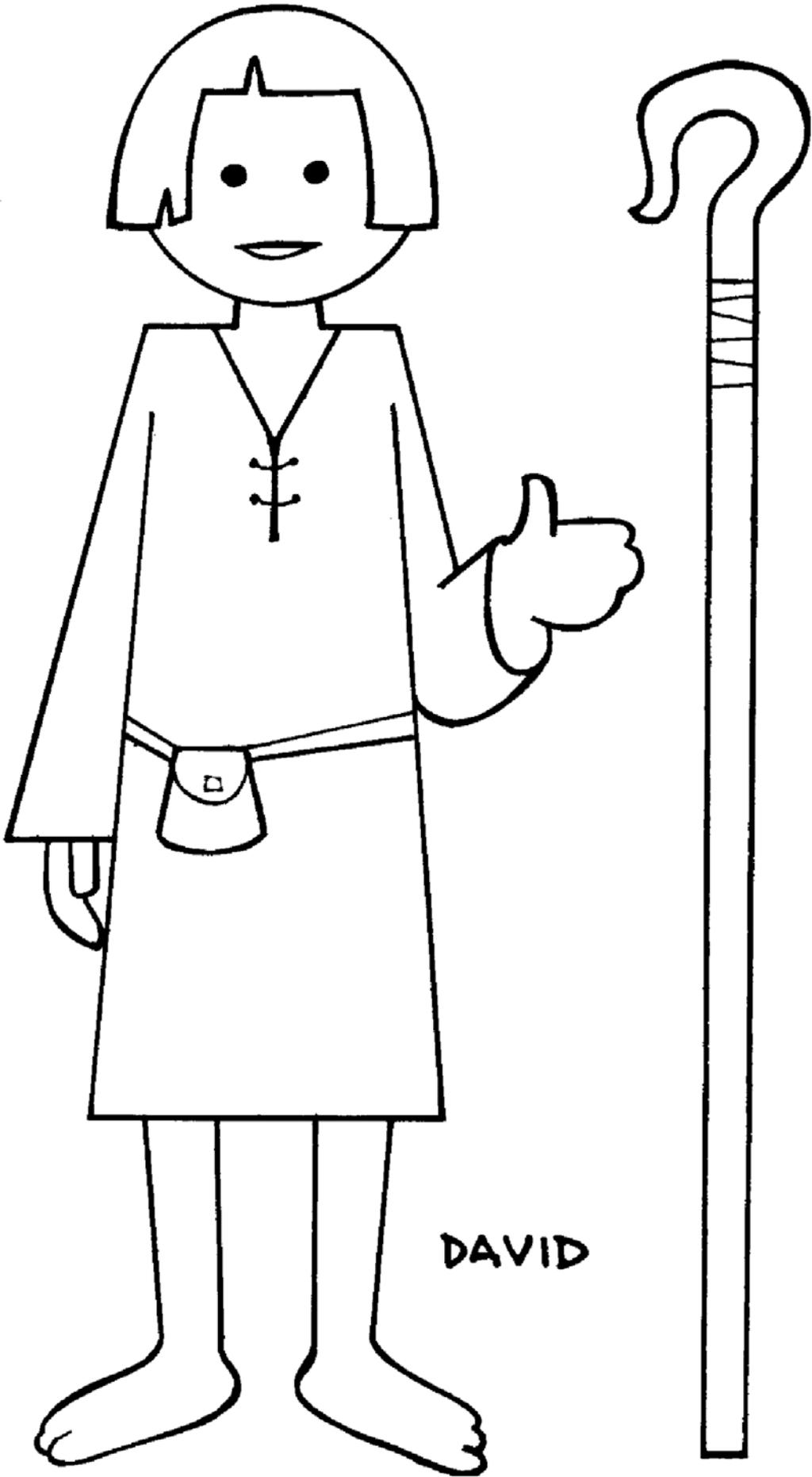


Thank you Jesus for my friends (pause) and for the happy times we have together (pause). Please help me to be a good friend (pause) and be kind and helpful to all my friends (pause). We also want to be your friend. We are sorry if we have made you sad (pause). We are glad that you still love us and that we can be your friends (pause). Please help me to be your friend. Amen.

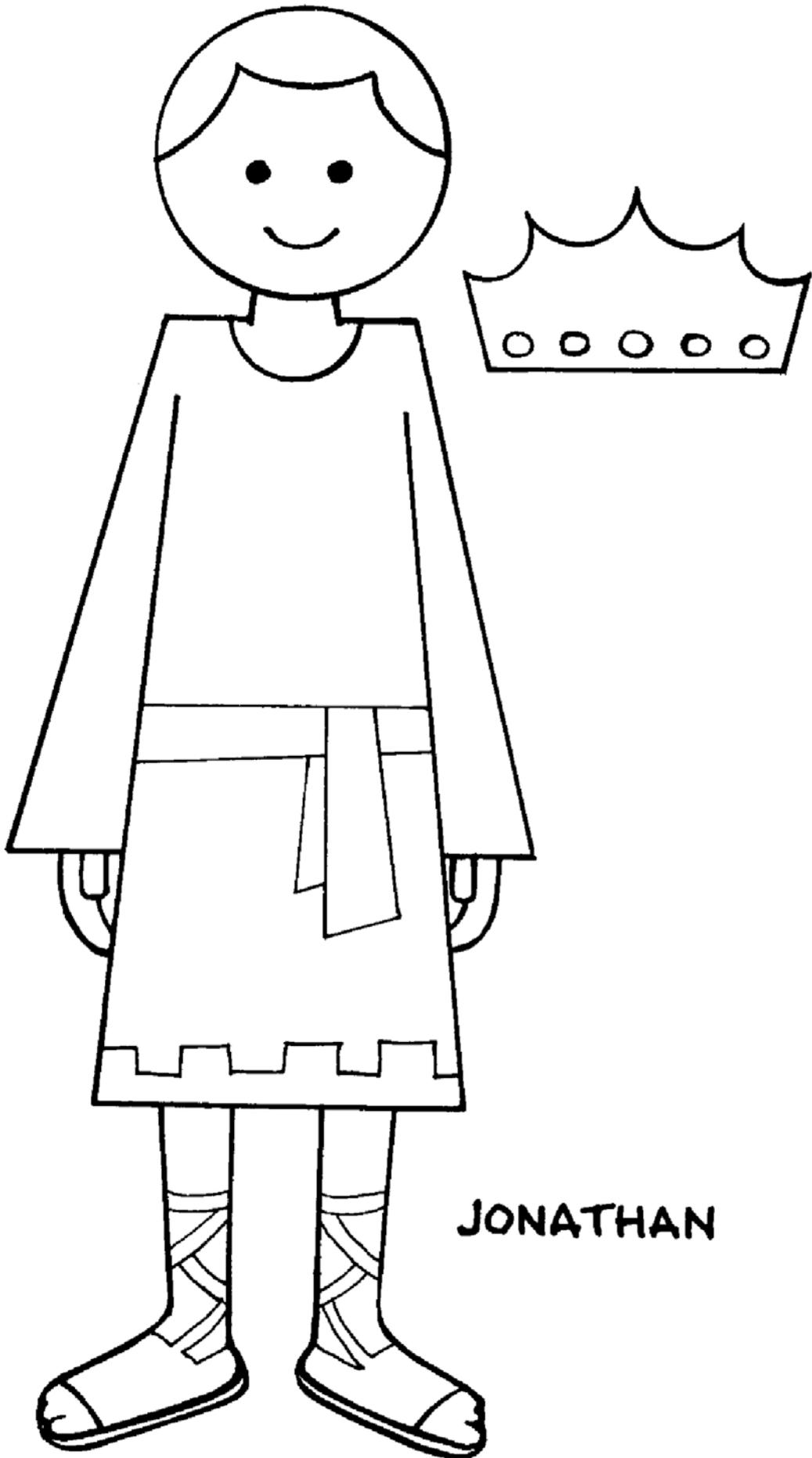
Hand out the response cards (photocopy the attached template for each child) and ask the children who prayed with you to fill it in appropriately. You will need to help children in this age group to fill it in. As they complete this activity take time to note those children who have made first time decisions.

Ensure you follow up any children who indicate they said this prayer with you for the first time. For this age group Scripture Union produces Bible reading notes called 'Join in – Jump on!' which a family member can help them to read daily. Linking them in to other sections in the corps which they may not already be attending e.g. Sunday School or Kids Club, will also help with their ongoing spiritual development.

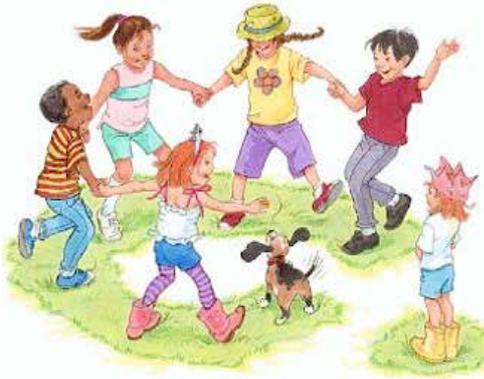




DAVID



JONATHAN



Today I asked Jesus _____
to help me live the
right way:

- for the first time
- again

I will use God's Word to help me
live the way Jesus wants me to.



Today I asked Jesus _____
to help me live the
right way:

- for the first time
- again

I will use God's Word to help me
live the way Jesus wants me to.



Today I asked Jesus _____
to help me live the
right way:

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