



DATE(S)

January 21-22, 2023

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Get Smart? – Week 3

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

God wants us to be a friend!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Proverbs 22:24, 12:26, 18:24,
27:17 13:20, 18:13, 17:17
John 13:35

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements



OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"Best Friends Trivia"

In this screen game, test your students' knowledge of movies and tv shows by asking which of these iconic best friends said the quote.

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

Who has a best friend? What makes that person your best friend?

What types of qualities do you look for in a good friend?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

Get Smart (Week 3) – Be A Friend
January 21-22, 2023

Hey everyone! Welcome to week 3 of our Get Smart series. We have been studying the Book of Proverbs and hopefully this has been a time that you have been able to reflect and apply these Godly characteristics to your life.

The Book of Proverbs is written by a king named Solomon, who some considered to be one of the wisest men to ever live! The past two weeks, we have looked at and talked about how to be righteous and how to be wise. This week we are going to challenge you to yet again.

Let me ask you this question: Who in here has a good friend? Or better yet, a best friend? Someone or multiple people are probably coming to your mind right now.

I am sure that each of us in here want to have good friends and want to be a good friend. But what exactly does it mean to be a good friend and why is it important?

Has anyone ever heard of a song called, "Let Me Tell You 'Bout My Best Friend"? It goes a little like this...

(Leaders Note: Yes, in the best singing voice you can muster, try to sing the first line of that song...or just enough to where some of them recognize it. I believe in you!)

Well, today...I would like to tell you about one of my very best friends

(Leaders Note: Share about one of your best friends and why that friendship is so important to you.)

Right now, I want you to think of who your good/best friends are and what makes you consider them as such. Your answers might be that they are funny... or honest... or your sibling... or your neighbor. Those are all great answers but I think our THP for this week will help us with how we should want to consider ourselves as friends and what we should look for in our friendships with others.

This week's THP is: God wants us to BE A FRIEND!

I think there are three important qualities to being a good friend: someone who is LOYAL, someone who LISTENS, and someone who LOVES.

Do you consider yourself as someone who is loyal? Or listens? Or someone who loves?
Are you someone that your friends can come to about anything and that they can trust to stick by them?

THE MESSAGE

Are you someone that listens well not talking over others and actually getting to know people? Do you love like Jesus - meaning that you care for everyone! Not just the people who look and act like you.

If you hear those three words and think those don't apply to you or aren't very important, then I'd like to challenge you to think a little bit deeper about friendship. One of the main themes of the Bible is relationships: relationships between people, relationships between people and God, etc.

One of the most important relationships that we can have is a godly friendship! We can't do life alone. We need Christian friendships where we can encourage and be encouraged.

We're going to take a minute and look at some verses in the Book of Proverbs that teach us about being a good friend, and also a few that go with each of the words (loyalty, listening, loving).

The reason I chose these three words is that I believe they are all similar and they start with the same letter, which makes it easier for you to remember! Plus, if you look up how to be a good friend online, which is what everyone seems to do these days; it gives you results like "30 simple steps to being a good friend" and...well...30 steps is not very simple!

So I want you to listen to each of these verses. Pick out which one stands out to you. Maybe God is asking you to work on a specific area where he wants you to become a better friend. Or maybe he is showing you what kind of friendships you need to be seeking out.

(Leaders Note: Feel free to expound on each verse as you feel necessary. you don't just have to read them!)

Choosing friends

Proverbs 22:24 - "Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered."

Proverbs 12:26 - "The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

Loyalty - A good friend is loyal

Proverbs 18:24 - "One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

Proverbs 27:17 - "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Listening - A good friend listens

Proverbs 13:20 - "Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm."

Proverbs 18:13 - "To answer before listening - that is folly and shame."

Loving - A good friend is loving

Proverbs 17:17 - "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."

John 13:35 - "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

THE MESSAGE

As I mentioned in the beginning, it's not only important to look for these traits in your friends, but it's also important to BE these traits so that you can be a good friend as well. My goal is not for you to sit here and think "I'm not a good friend" or "I have friends who aren't ___".

But I do want you to consider for a moment what it looks like to have godly friendships and what it looks like for you yourself to be a godly friend.

This week I want you challenge you to practice selfless friendship. Identify one friend in your life who may need extra support or encouragement and pray for them. Write them a short note, or even doodle a picture, to let them know how much they are loved and appreciated. If possible, make an effort to daily communicate, whether in person or through text/phone call/etc., just to let them know you are there and that you care.

I hope that you will consider what God's design is for friendship based on what the Bible teaches us. These verses give us a good idea of the kind of friends we should choose and the kind of friend we should be to other people. As our THP says, let's commit to being godly friends! Let me pray for us before we go into our group discussions.

CLOSING SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

*****Leader's Note: Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.**

What was the THP today and why was it important to the message?

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What are some ways this message applies to your friendships right now? Are there certain friends in your life that do these things well? Why or why not?

Let's read this verse from the book of Proverbs together. Proverbs has been the basis for this whole "Get Smart" series. We're going to use our SOAP method to look at this verse from Proverbs 12:26. Here's a quick review of the SOAP method...

SCRIPTURE—Read the passage of Scripture out loud twice
OBSERVATION—Take some time to say or write down some words or phrases that stick out to you or you find interesting (or confusing). Write down questions if there are some things that are hard to understand.

APPLICATION—Think about how this Bible verse applies to your everyday life and how it can help you.

PRAYER—Pray at the end of your discussion (just like normal!). Pray that God would help you apply what you've learned and to keep learning/persevering when you mess up!

"The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

Do you have friends in your life who help you in your relationship with God? If so, how do they help you?"

How can we be godly friends in someone else's life? How can we encourage and challenge one another to grow in our faith (even among those here in our group)

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

FINAL THOUGHTS

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!

Encourage those students in your group who made first-time decisions or who made re-commitments to follow Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them and they don't have to do this life alone. If there is a student who makes a first-time commitment to Christ, have them text NVSNEXT to 85379 or fill out a response card so you can capture their information and our staff can follow up with them. Once your group discussion is over, close your group in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Stupid Video of the Week
- Game videos and/or slides
- Message script
- Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

- Pro Presenter or Playlister