

### Dear Parents:

#### Our Memory Verse this week:

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

#### Today we discovered:

- Jesus calls us His friends
- To be called a "Friend of God" is the greatest thing
- We bear fruit because it means a lot to our best friend, Jesus

#### Parent's Points to Ponder:

What a privilege it is as parents to introduce God's character, heart and nature to our children. As they experience His presence, and are taught His ways, a relationship develops. Jesus, echoing His Father's heart, defines His relationship with us as friends. This friendship was initiated and the invitation was given as Jesus laid down His life for us. Nurturing this "friendship relationship" in our children will release a generation that brings Heaven to earth, because it means so much to their very best friend... Jesus.

#### Ask Your Child:

What does Jesus call us? (Friends) Can we earn God's love and pleasure by doing good things? (No, we already have His love and pleasure) Why do we obey God and bear fruit? (Because it brings Him glory and it means a lot to Him) What is the best thing you can be called? (A friend of God)

#### Soaking Time:

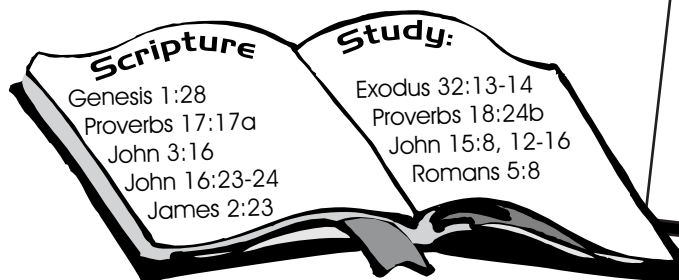
In a soaking atmosphere, invite your children to sit before the Father's presence. Lead them to:

- Thank the Father, His Son, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for being so great.
- Thank God for being your Creator, Savior, Helper and Father.
- Thank Him for calling you friend. Let Him know you want to be His very best friend and get to know Him better.
- Tell Him that as a friend you want to obey Him and bring Heaven to earth to glorify Him, because it means so much to Him.
- Thank Him for His promise of filling you with His joy.

After awhile, ask what God said and showed them.

#### Home Activity:

"FRIEND CONNECT": With your child, cut out a paper outline representing your child. Cut out the letters G O D from another piece of construction paper. Glue picture and "GOD" on opposite ends of a large piece of paper labeled "Friend of God" Discuss with your child the things that would make Him a great friend. Include things such as: kind, loving, fun, adventurous, merciful, etc. With each attribute, glue a length of yarn from "GOD" to figure of your child. Then have your child write about how they feel about God on the poster board.



#### Scripture

Genesis 1:28  
Proverbs 17:17a  
John 3:16  
John 16:23-24  
James 2:23

#### Study:

Exodus 32:13-14  
Proverbs 18:24b  
John 15:8, 12-16  
Romans 5:8

#### Parent's Blessing:

( Your child's name ), I rejoice with Heaven that you are known as a true friend of God. I bless your affection, the desire to be with, to know and enjoy the Father. You have responded in kind as Jesus laid down His life for you as a friend.

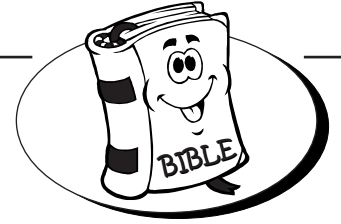
( Your child's name ), I bless your spirit, that your motivation to bring Heaven to earth and all its fruit is from a heart of love and friendship with the Father. I speak all these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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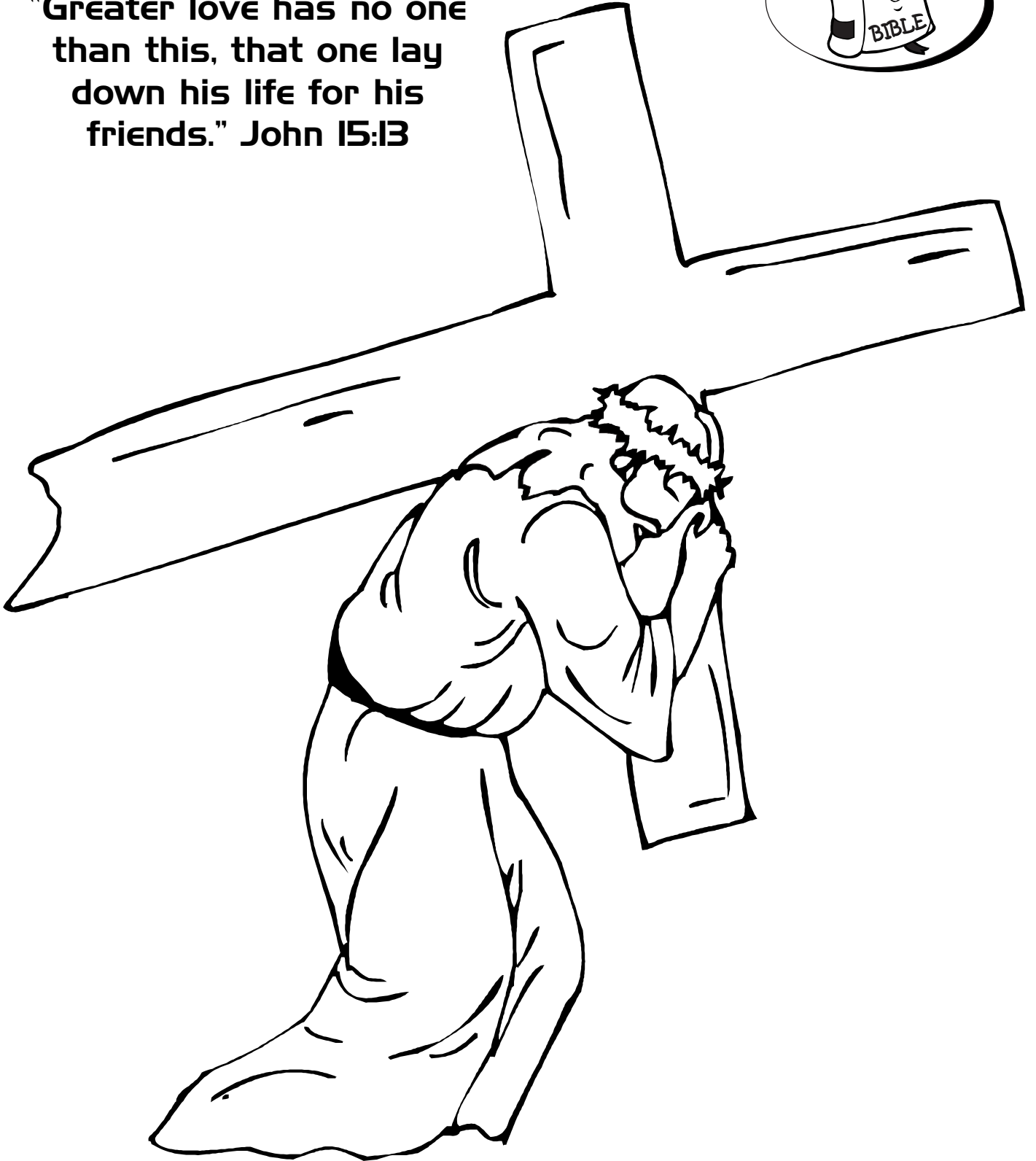
Fruit for a Friend

"KID'S CARRYING THE KINGDOM"

## Memory Verse A FRIEND OF GOD



"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13





Look up the following passage in your Bible and fill in the missing words. We used the New American Standard version.

**Genesis 1:28** "God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be \_\_\_\_\_ and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sea and over the birds of the \_\_\_\_\_ and over every living thing that moves on the \_\_\_\_\_." "

**Exodus 32:13** "Remember \_\_\_\_\_, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, 'I will \_\_\_\_\_ your descendants as the stars of the \_\_\_\_\_, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall \_\_\_\_\_ forever.' "

**Proverbs 17:17** "A \_\_\_\_\_ loves at all times, And a \_\_\_\_\_ is born for adversity."

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the \_\_\_\_\_, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever \_\_\_\_\_ in Him shall not \_\_\_\_\_, but have eternal \_\_\_\_\_."

**John 15:8** "My Father is \_\_\_\_\_ by this, that you bear much \_\_\_\_\_, and so prove to be My \_\_\_\_\_."

**John 15:15-16** "No longer do I call you \_\_\_\_\_, for the slave does not know what his \_\_\_\_\_ is doing; but I have called you \_\_\_\_\_, for all things that I have \_\_\_\_\_ from My Father I have made known to you. You did not chose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your \_\_\_\_\_ would remain, so that whatever you ask of the \_\_\_\_\_ in My name He may \_\_\_\_\_ it to you."

**Romans 5:8** "But \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrates His own \_\_\_\_\_ toward us, in that while we were yet \_\_\_\_\_, Christ died for us."

**James 2:23** "and the \_\_\_\_\_ was fulfilled which says, 'AND ABRAHAM \_\_\_\_\_ GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,' and he was