

Friends of God

Six sessions from 1 John



**Primary
School**



Lunchtime Group Resource

Friends **of *God***

Six sessions from 1 John



The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.

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WELCOME

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- **6** sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide an aim, fun activity, guidelines for an interactive talk as well as prayer, memory verse and song ideas.
- **2** colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name, the dates of your meetings and where you meet. We encourage schools to use the 'CRU School Groups' logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

BEFORE YOU START

- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders request each school purchase at least one original.
- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital that time is spent adapting it to the specific needs of your group. Time also needs to be spent on working through the Bible passage and talk before the group meets.
- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting and divide time accordingly.
- All suggested songs are linked to the theme of the talk and are used with permission from Colin Buchanan's album 'Practice Being Godly' (© 2002 Wanaaring Rd Music Pty Ltd). This CD is available in Christian bookstores and includes sheet music.

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God's work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

*"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.
To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me."
Colossians 1:28–29*

Friends of *God*

Week	Title	Passage	Main Idea
1	Does A Circle Have A Beginning?	1 John 1:1-4	Jesus is God Jesus is God and was alive before He came to earth.
2	God's '000'	1 John 1:5-2:2	Jesus can make us friends of God We can only be friends of God if our sin is taken away. Jesus came to take our sin away.
3	Walk Like A ... Chicken?	1 John 2:3-6	Friends of God walk like Jesus If we say we are a friend of God then we must be copying Jesus more and more.
4	The Greatest Treasure	1 John 2:15-17	Friends of God love Him more than anything Friends of God love Him more than anything else in the world.
5	Lights, Camera, ACTION!	1 John 3:16-18	Friends of God love people with actions Jesus has shown His love for us with actions by dying for us. We must love others with actions too.
6	100% Money Back Guarantee	1 John 5:11-13	Friends of God know they are friends of God As friends of God, we can be 100% sure we will go to heaven because of what Jesus has done.

God's '000'

1 John 1:5-2:2

AIM

To demonstrate to students that we can only be friends of God if our sin is taken away. This is what Jesus came to do.

FOCUS VERSES

1 John 1:5,10

PREPARATION

- Advertise this meeting as a 'Bring a Friend' week.
- Bring a black T-shirt and a white T-shirt.
- Write the word 'US' in large letters on a piece of paper.
- Write the word 'GOD' in large letters on one side of a second piece of paper. Write the word 'JESUS' in large letters on the other side.

FUN ACTIVITY

Rescue, Rescue – this game requires some space. Choose 1 or 2 people to be in. Whoever they tip are trapped and must lie on their back with arms and legs outstretched. Use the word 'rescued' to explain that trapped people can be freed if 4 other people come and each hold one of their arms or legs. Before the trapped person is free they must all yell together 'Rescue, Rescue 1, 2, 3'. You cannot be tipped if you are touching a trapped person.

RECAP

Welcome new people. Ask students what they remember from last week's talk. Remind them that John told us Jesus is God and was alive before He was born. Explain that today we are looking at what John says about why Jesus came into the world.

TALK

Start by discussing how good it is in the game to be rescued when you are trapped. Ask the students if they have ever been rescued from anything more serious eg. a time they were lost or drowning. You may like to share a time when you were rescued by someone.

Explain that today's passage tells us we need to be rescued from sin. Ask students what sin is. Explain that it is when we make decisions that show we are not listening to what God says in the Bible. John says we all have done this.

Illustrate this by asking one student to put on the black shirt, hold up the piece of paper with the word 'US' on it and stand over to one side of the room. Explain that the black symbolizes sin. Read out 1 John 1:10. Explain that we would all be wearing black shirts if you had enough money to buy that many!

Ask students: 'So why do we have to be rescued from sin?' Help them to see that if we have sin in us then we cannot be friends of God. Sin separates us from Him.

Illustrate this by asking another student to represent God. Get this student to put on the white shirt, hold up the piece of paper with the word 'GOD' showing and go to the opposite



side of the room to the student in the black shirt. Explain that the Bible says God and sin cannot go together. Read 1 John 1:5 and help students to see that this means we cannot be friends of God if we have sin in us.

Remind students that last week we saw that Jesus was always in heaven – He is God. The great news for us is that He came to earth to rescue us from our sin so that we can be friends of God.

Illustrate this by turning around the piece of paper that says 'GOD' so that the word 'JESUS' is visible to the crowd. Then get the student wearing the white shirt to walk over to the student wearing the black shirt and swap shirts with them. Get both students to put on their swapped shirts and hold up their pieces of paper. Explain while they do this that Jesus took our sin on Himself when He died (black shirt). As Jesus has taken our sin from us, we can be friends of God (white shirt).

Thank the 2 students and get them to sit down. Wrap up by making it clear to students that not everyone is a friend of God because many people do not want Jesus to rescue them. They do not ask Jesus to take their sin (black shirt) from them and so stay apart from God.

Challenge students to think about whether they have told Jesus about their sin and asked Him to take their sin from them so that they can be friends of God. You may want to give students who have never done this the opportunity to talk to you about it while the song is playing or at the end of the meeting.

SONG IDEA

Titus 3:5 ('Practice Being Godly', Colin Buchanan) – this is a lively song so using actions would be great!

PRAYER IDEA

From the front, thank Jesus for coming to earth to take our sin for us and make us friends of God.

FINISH

Encourage new people to come back.