



# Walking with Jesus

## Getting Started

*Find a photo of yourself as a child, playing with your best friend.*

*Bookmark John 15:15 in your Bible so you can find it quickly.*

## Introduction

I brought along a picture today. It's a picture of my best friend, *(name)*, and me when I was *(age)*. *(Name)* and I loved to *(name a few of your favorite childhood activities)*.

What do you like to do with your friends? *(Let two or three children share briefly.)*

## Getting to the Heart

Friends are God's gifts to us! Having friends is a very, very good thing! It's an especially good thing to have Jesus as our friend. *(Read John 15:15, emphasizing the words of Jesus, "I have called you friends.")*

We often say that Jesus is our Savior. He died for us to wash away our sins.

We often say that Jesus is our King, our Lord. He rules over us and tells us how to live in ways that honor him.

We can also say that Jesus is our Friend!

- Friends talk to one another. We talk about what makes us happy and what makes us sad. We talk about fun things we'd like to have and activities we'd like to do. We can talk to our Friend, Jesus, in prayer. He will always listen. He will always help us and our families when we are sad, when we are happy, and when we are scared.
- Friends take care of each other. We might share a snack with a friend. We might help a friend with homework. We might be a friend and stand up for someone who is being bullied. Jesus takes care of us! He is our Protector. If we are hurting or sad or lonesome, Jesus is there for us. He is the Best Friend ever!
- Friends are fun to be with. The better we know our friends, the more fun we can usually have with them. We get to know Jesus better and better as we come to church, as we read Bible stories, and as

we listen to our moms and dads and grandparents tell us about him. Knowing Jesus helps us love him more and more!

Here's another very good thing about our Friend, Jesus. He has promised us, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Sometimes our earthly friends can't be with us. When we take a hard test . . . when we fall or are sick and have to go to the emergency room . . . when our family moves to a new place . . . when they are busy with other things . . .

But our Friend Jesus is always, always with us. He will never, ever leave us alone. He is always ready to hear and to help us. I'm glad Jesus is our Savior. And I'm glad Jesus is our Friend, aren't you?!

## **Taking It Home**

As you leave today, you will each receive (*name the item you intend to distribute*). I hope when you think of walking with Jesus, you remember that he is your Best Friend Ever!

Let's pray: Dear Jesus, thank you so very much for being our Savior and Friend! Thank you for washing away our sins. Thank you for listening when we pray. Thank you for helping us in times of trouble. Thank you for staying with us always. Please teach us to be good friends to others. We love you, Jesus! Amen.

## Faith Talk @ Home

(for use with #WJE18AK, the *Walking with Jesus* Family Prayer Activity Kit)

The activity kit your child is bringing home today will help your whole family pray together. Follow the assembly directions. Then practice using the activity. Remember, prayer does not have to be some foreboding, formal, intellectual exercise. Simply talk to Jesus as you would talk with a friend. Model short, simple sentences for your child, speaking from the heart. Remember, Jesus has promised to hear and to help!

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## Faith Talk @ Home

(for use with any other *Walking with Jesus* giveaway)

Today we talked about our Best Friend, Jesus, and what it means for us that Jesus is our Friend and Savior.

Continue this conversation at home by sharing with your child photos of you and your friends when you were your child's age. Talk about what you liked to do with your friends and what your child(ren) likes to do with his or her friends. Then tell each other about a time when you were glad to know Jesus as your Friend. Ask your child(ren) to tell about a time like that in his or her own life, too.

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