

Joseline's Story



Lesson



Objective

Children will learn about friendship, and about one of CBM's ministries for children in Bolivia called Friendship House (Casa de la Amistad).



Key point: God wants us to be good friends – to work together, to love and care for each other, in our community and around the world.

Advance Class Preparation:

Decorate: Bring items to decorate your class. Use suitcases, maps, Bolivian flags, passports – wherever your imagination takes you, and whatever is suitable for your particular group.

Tip: Post up a world map. Highlight where Bolivia is.



Introduction (5 minutes)

Hola! Hi! We are going to meet some kids who live far away. Can anyone guess where? (Give a hint, such as "It's a place where they speak Spanish.") Yes, they live in Bolivia. Does anyone know where that is? (See if anyone can point it out on a map). We're going to hear about a bunch of friends who live in a very peculiar place. But first, let's read about two friends who lived long ago. Their story is in the Bible.



Bible Story (15 minutes)

1 Samuel 18-20

King David's Best Friend

A good friend is a gift from God.

A long time ago, a boy named David was tending sheep in the hills outside his village when one of his brothers came running to find him.

"David, the prophet Samuel is here, and he wants to see you!" he said.

When they got back to the village, David saw all his older brothers standing there, tall and strong. But Samuel was looking at him.

"God has chosen you to be king of Israel," Samuel said, and he put oil on David's head as a sign of this anointing.

David didn't become king right away, because Israel already had a king, Saul.

At the time, Saul was leading his army in a big war against the Philistines. The armies were camped on different sides of a valley. Every day, a giant warrior called Goliath taunted the Israelites to send someone to fight him, but no one was brave enough. When David heard about this, he knew what to do. He had trusted God with his life many times when protecting his father's sheep from lions and bears. David faced Goliath with only a sling and five smooth stones, and killed the giant with one shot.

After David killed Goliath, he went to live at the king's palace, where he met Prince Jonathan, Saul's son. David and Jonathan became best friends. Even though Jonathan was the heir to the throne, he realized that God wanted David to be king. He gave David his robe and sword as a symbol, giving up his own right to be king.

One day they made a promise of friendship and loyalty to each other, a promise they kept even when it was difficult.

Over the years, David continued to serve in the army and became very popular with the people. King Saul started to get jealous of David's success as a leader, but Jonathan stuck up for David, even risking his own life. Saul decided to try and kill David, but Jonathan, his best friend, warned him so he could escape. This made his father, Saul very angry.

Saul continued to try and kill David. When he hunted for David in the desert, Jonathan went to be by his side, to encourage him and help him find strength in God.

Eventually Saul was killed in battle and the people chose David to become the king of Israel. He cared for them like a shepherd, the way he once protected and cared for his father's sheep. He became the man and the king God wanted him to be – with the help of his friend Jonathan.



Bible Story Discussion

- How was Jonathan a good friend to David?
- Have you ever given up something important to you to help a friend?
- When was someone a good friend to you? How did you feel?
- God wants us to love and help others. How can you be a good friend to someone this week?



Story Time (15 minutes)

Life on the Inside - in prison

Kids Care went all the way to Bolivia to meet a very special bunch of friends. We learned more about their life. They live in a very peculiar place. Here is the story of Joseline. (Show Joseline's photo)

I was nine years old when I went to live with my mom in prison. We were very poor and she had tried to make some money to take care of us by carrying drugs. But it's okay to live in prison because I get to be with my mom.

My best friend, Ivana, also lives in prison with her mom. We try and help each other.

We can leave the prison every day to go to school. After school we go to Casa de la Amistad (Friendship House), which is across the plaza from the prison. They give us a very good lunch and help us with our homework. We also like hanging out with our friends and playing before it is time to go back to prison for the night.

We really like the Casa and the staff. They are our tias and tios (aunts and uncles).

I like to study. My favourite subject is math and I want to become a teacher. The only thing that makes me sad is that my dad does not live with us. I don't know where he is. When people go to jail, it is difficult for families to stay together. I feel bad about kids in my situation. My biggest hope is that my mom gets out of jail and we have our own house.



▲
Joseline shows the bracelets she made for Kids Care visitors.

One of the things I like to do the most is make bracelets. My cousin sells them in the market and I save the money I make. I also help my mom

with the laundry in prison because we have to earn enough money to pay for our food and other expenses. It is a difficult life but I am very happy that

I have some friends like Ivana and the people who help us at the Casa.

I thank you very much for your help. We heard that you give money to the Casa and that you pray for us. Muchas gracias. Thanks very much. God bless you.



Note to leader:

In Bolivia, kids can stay with their parent in jail if they have no other friends or family to live with. Friendship House is a ministry that provides a place where they can go during the day. It is one of the Children of Hope projects supported by The Sharing Way, CBM's relief and community development department. For more info on Children of Hope, CBM and The Sharing Way, see www.cbmin.org.



Story Discussion

- Where does Joseline live?
- What are some of the things that Joseline likes? What makes her sad?
- What gives Joseline hope? What gives you hope?
- How can we be good friends to Joseline? To kids in our neighbourhood?



Extra Resources:

- See Welcome to My Neighbourhood in Bolivia for more stories, fun and games to teach children about how they can be a good friend to children in Bolivia. One lesson focuses on Prison Kids and has the story of Ivana, Joseline's best friend.
- To learn more about Friendship House and other Children of Hope projects, read "Once Upon a Child" in the summer 2009 issue of *mosaic*.



Activities (15 minutes)

Web of Friendship

For younger children: Ask children to sit in a circle and say one nice thing about the child sitting next to him/her.

For older children: Spin a friendship web. (You will need a ball of thick white yarn. Works best with a group of ten children or more.)

Ask children to sit in a big circle and show them the yarn. Explain that you will begin spinning the web by holding the end of the yarn ball and then pick a friend to toss the ball to: "I'd like John to help spin our web." When John catches it, share something you like about him. Remind him to hold

the yarn string tight, as he picks the next friend to throw the ball to. The activity proceeds until all the children have been picked – some may be picked more than once, or the teacher may need to assist: “I think Jennifer would like to join our web...” and the ball of yarn runs out. You should now have a huge web! It can be fun to see if the group can stand up without getting tangled in it!



Crafts

Make a Friendship Chain

Give children strips of construction paper. Have everyone decorate and write the name of a friend on the strips. Let children take turns adding their strips to the chain. Display the chain in the classroom. Keep a supply of construction paper strips on hand and invite the children to continue adding strips to the class friendship chain.

Make a Friendship Collage – Our World of Friends

Materials needed:

- Poster board, coloured construction paper
- Magazine pictures
- Scraps of felt, yarn, cloth, beads, glitter
- Paints, crayons, pencil crayons, pastels
- Scissors, glue

Directions:

- Write the words “Our World of Friends” on the poster board.
- Have children work in pairs to make a collage of pictures of things they like to do with their friends. Include some pictures of kids in other countries (see www.cbmin.org) and ways that they can become a good friend to others. Hang them in a quilt pattern, **or**
- Have children come to the table in pairs to choose and add materials to the poster board. When it is done hang it up.

Make a Friendship Bracelet

Materials needed:

- Different colours of embroidery thread
- Scissors
- Something to hold your project in place

Step 1: Tie the four different colours of embroidery floss together. Tape the knotted end to a table top.

Step 2: Select a colour of floss to begin. Make a loop with the floss and bring the end through the loop.

Step 3: Pull the strand tightly to make a knot. Repeat this knot until you have covered about one inch,

pulling the knots up tightly as you go. The knots will naturally spiral around the inner threads.

Step 4: If you’d like, add charms or beads to your bracelet. *Give the finished bracelet to a friend!*



Snack

Cocadas are Bolivian baked coconut bars or cookies.

You'll need the following ingredients:

1 grated coconut (or flaked coconut)	1 pound sugar
2 cups coconut milk	6 egg yolks, whipped
2 cups regular milk	1 tablespoon butter
	1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
	Sesame seeds

Preparation:

In a pot cook the coconut milk (if you can't find coconut milk, use regular milk), sugar and milk, mixing and blending constantly until the mixture turns into a syrup. Add grated coconut, mixing until you can see the bottom of the pot. Remove the pot from the stove, add the grated lemon peel, whipped egg yolks, a small amount of sesame seeds, and butter. Return the mixture to the stove and cook until it thickens, stirring constantly. Remove the mixture from the pot with a spatula, placing it into a greased square pan. Or form into balls and place on a cookie sheet. Place in the oven at low heat until it browns lightly. Remove from the oven, cool, and cut into squares.



Fundraising Tip

We can be friends with children in other parts of the world. Explain how the funds you raise with *Kids Care* will help support Friendship House, which provides a “home away from home” – a place where Joseline and other kids who live in prison can go during the day. Use the **Kids Care coin box** to collect your change.

Plan some fun events to help raise money. Hold a **Christmas Gift Swap and Shop**. Set up tables (in your church/school/community) and sell your friendship bracelets, other crafts, used books, toys and games, baking, etc. Ask other classes and groups in your church/school to participate.

Have a **Best Friends Photo Booth**. Take a picture of people with their best friend or a group of friends. Email or print off a copy. Make a fun page on the web to share these photos (make sure you have the permission of the people in the photo; have a permission sheet at your event.) Charge a loonie or toonie per photo.