



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



10 minutes

Jesus – The Friend

Aim To look at Jesus as our friend

Equipment:

- Flip chart
- Drawing paper
- Felt tipped pens, pencils

The story of Jesus and the children is in the Bible:

- Matthew 19: 13-15
- Mark 10: 13-16
- Luke 18: 15-17
- Tell the story of the children being brought to Jesus.
- *Why did the disciples try to stop this? Why did Jesus want the children brought to him? Why did Jesus say that everyone should be as a little child? Why were children special to Jesus?*
- Discuss with the boys what makes a good friend. Use a children's book or story which illustrates friendship as a starting point. *Were the characters in the story good friends or not? Why?*
- Make a collective list of good and bad qualities (you might want to write these up on a large piece of paper or flip chart). Discuss how children can be a good friend to others and how they can make new friends.
- Ask the boys to make a montage of friendly faces, a collage of friendly pictures or posters showing friendly actions.

The story of Jesus calling the disciples is in the Bible:

- Matthew 4: 18-22
- Mark 1: 16-20
- Luke 5: 1-11
- Tell the story of Jesus calling the fishermen to be his helpers and followers (disciples). Discuss how the disciples felt at various points in the story.
- *Why do you think Jesus chose these fishermen to be his disciples?*
- Introduce the boys to the 12 disciples.
- *How many friends do you have? What are their names and how do they compare with the names of the disciples?*
- Ask the boys to make a collage of their friends, or make a display using the names of the disciples and the names of their friends.

The story of Zacchaeus is in the Bible:

- Luke 19
- Tell the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector.
- *Why was Zacchaeus unpopular? Why didn't Zacchaeus have any friends? Do you think Zacchaeus was lonely? Why did Zacchaeus have to climb a tree? Why did Jesus choose Zacchaeus to be his friend?*
- *What happened to Zacchaeus because of this event? What can we learn from this story?*
- The boys can then illustrate or write about their favourite part of the story.
- Act out the story; see "Extras" pages for suggested web links for drama topics.