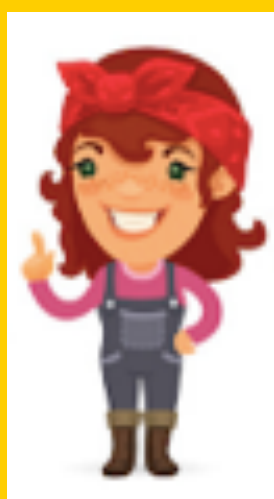




STORY TIME

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"



DIRECTIONS

Choose one activity out of each section on the next page. When you complete your chosen activity in a section, place a sticker on your sticker chart.

Having fun and don't want to stop? Do more than one activity in your favorite section(s)!



REFLECTION SECTION

Questions for Grown-Ups

1. Mary and Elizabeth are relatives, but also friends. Who are your close friends outside your immediate family, the ones to whom you rush to share personal news? What do those friendships mean to you? How do they enrich your life?
2. Elizabeth immediately shares a blessing with Mary. What sort of blessing would you want to share with your closest friends? How would you ask for God's favor and protection for them?

Questions for Young Disciples

Friendships can be found anywhere and sometimes you find your best friend right in your own family. Mary and Elizabeth were cousins! Think of the friendships that you have. Share where you met your friends. Did you meet at school, through an activity or are they part of your family? What makes your friendships special? Do you have a special greeting which could look like a handshake sequence or a phrase that you say to one another? Mary and Elizabeth shared a blessing with one another. How might you pray that your friend would be blessed?

Questions for Younger Disciples

Some of our first friendships are with people that are in our family, people that you go to childcare with, or even people that you go to church with. Can you remember who your first friend was? Why was this friendship special? How did you learn to be friends with another person?



IMAGINATION STATION

Option One:

Complete today's Friends Craft.

Option Two:

Color the Friends Coloring Page.

Option Three:

Look through your phone for photos of or with your friends. Create a "friendship" album on your phone (maybe your phone would even set the pictures to music?) or create a Friendship Pinterest board.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Option One:

Take a walk with a friend. If you can't be physically together, arrange a time to call and chat while you both walk.

Option Two:

Take a walk alone. Use the time to think back through friendships over the years and how each person was a blessing in that era of your life.



MISSION MOMENT

Option One:

Write to one of your friends and share with them a blessing, what you hope God brings into their life. Pray separately or together.

Option Two:

Notice who needs a friend right now. Is there someone on your block or neighborhood that would like a simple card or note? Even a simple message will go a long way.

Activity for Families

Friends are important to have. Together talk about what makes a good friendship and how you can be a good friend to others. Do something nice to let your friend know how much you care about them.

You're done! Be sure to head inside and celebrate your progress on your Sticker Chart, and then let us know what you discovered in the Facebook group!

VBS FOR BACKYARDS Week Two: Friends

No popsicle sticks required.



Simple Straw Mobile

You need:

- Straw
- Paper clips
- Construction paper/paper
- Scissors

Step One: Slide three paper clips onto a straw, with one at the center and one on either end. The paper clips on either end should be about a half-inch to an inch away from the end of the straw. The center paperclip will be facing up, with the side paper clips facing down. Repeat this process twice so that you have three straw units total.

Step Two: Connect the units using other paperclips to create chains. To create a more interesting looking mobile, use chains of varying lengths.

Step Three: Cut four to six shapes out of construction paper or regular paper with scissors - hearts, stars, letters, numbers, geometric shapes, whatever you would like!

Step Four: Attach the shapes to the paper units using different lengths of paper clip chains.

Step Five: Slide paper clips where necessary to keep the mobile balanced. Use a small dot of glue or tape to keep paper clips in place if they are still sliding.

Step Six: Create a chain for the top of the mobile.

