



## GOD'S WISDOM FOR FRIENDSHIP

### BIG IDEA

Friendship involves two important ingredients: Trust, and thinking about others. We learn how to be a friend through being the sort of friend we want others to be to us.

#### PREP *(Kids can help!)*

**Cut** some pieces of paper into the shape of stepping stones (as many as you like)

**Cut** out the proverbs on friendship from the appendix

**Find** a treat/prize for each child, and a bucket

**Find** a piece of cardboard (e.g. an old cereal box) that will fit the template of the boomerang from the appendix

**Write** with felt pen the following headings on three A4 sheets or strips of cardboard – A GOOD FRIEND IS, A GOOD FRIEND IS NOT, CHOOSING OUR FRIENDS

**Put everything into the Faith Box before you start**

#### INTRO

Do you remember when Solomon was crowned king? He asked God for wisdom so he would know how to govern God's people with justice and honour.

During his life Solomon wrote down some of this special wisdom for us in the book of Proverbs. It tells us how to act and live with other people and how to stop ourselves from getting into trouble. But first we have a challenge!



*A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.*

## PLAY

### **THE HUMAN KNOT**

*Have everyone stand in a circle and grab the hand of two others in the circle, but not the people next to them on either side. Once everyone has grabbed hands, they must untangle themselves without letting go of their companions' hands.*

*Family members must communicate and plan how they are going to break the knot. Some may end facing outward, which is okay, as long as no one lets go.*

*Talk about how all our actions affect our interaction with others.*

When we cooperate and work together in a friendly way, things are so much easier.

We are always affected and influenced by the people we are friends with.

We are going to follow stepping stones to some of Solomon's wisdom about friendship.

*TAKE OUT THE 'STEPPING STONES' AND ARRANGE THEM INTO A SPIRAL SHAPED PATH. PUT THE TREATS AND PROVERBS IN THE BUCKET AT THE END OF THE PATH.*

### **TAKE A STEP FORWARD**

*The children start at the beginning of the path and receive a treat/prize when they reach the end.*

*Each child progresses on the path by answering*

*questions. If they answer correctly they take a step forward onto the next stepping stone. If not they stay where they are.*

- Take a step forward if your favourite day of the week is Monday (or Tuesday, etc.)
- Take a step forward if you have already had your birthday this year
- Take a step forward if you know when your friend's birthday is
- Take a step forward if one of your friends has a pet
- Take a step forward if your favourite colour is orange
- Take a step forward if you know what your best friend's favourite colour is
- Take a step forward if you played with a friend today

*Keep going until each child reaches the end of the path and receives a treat/prize.*

## READ

*BRING THE TREATS AND THE PROVERBS BACK TO THE TABLE. PUT THE THREE CARDS WITH HEADINGS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP ON THE TABLE*

*While the children eat their treat, ask them for their ideas as to what a good friend is, what a good friend is not, and how to choose good friends.*

*NOW LAY OUT ALL THE PROVERBS ON THE TABLE. Get the children to sort the proverbs under the three headings (Some of the scriptures may need to be cut in half as one half may fit under each heading.)*

## EXPLORE

God made us to live with other people in our everyday lives. So he gave us some special rules to help us know how to act.

Learning how to get on with others and be a good friend means that we also receive friendship and kindness back from others. It comes back to us like a boomerang.

*TAKE OUT THE CARDBOARD AND THE BOOMERANG PATTERN FROM THE APPENDIX. Together with the children, cut out the pattern and draw around it on the cardboard. Cut out and fold the edges down where the red lines are on the template, forming the airfoils. Only bend them down slightly; otherwise, your boomerang won't fly properly. You may want to decorate your boomerang with stickers, paint, or markers. Now give your boomerang a test flight. Hold it by one of the arms on the side that doesn't have the airfoils. Twist your wrist towards your body then flick it out, flinging the boomerang like a Frisbee.*

*It may not come back to you on its first flight. That's okay. You just need to bend the three arms down slightly and then try again. If it still doesn't work, try bending them up instead. Everyone throws a little differently, so what works for one person may not for another.*

*AFTER YOU HAVE ALL HAD A TURN THROWING THE BOOMERANG, SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT SOME WAYS SOME THINGS BOOMERANG BACK WITH FRIENDS.*

## QUESTIONS

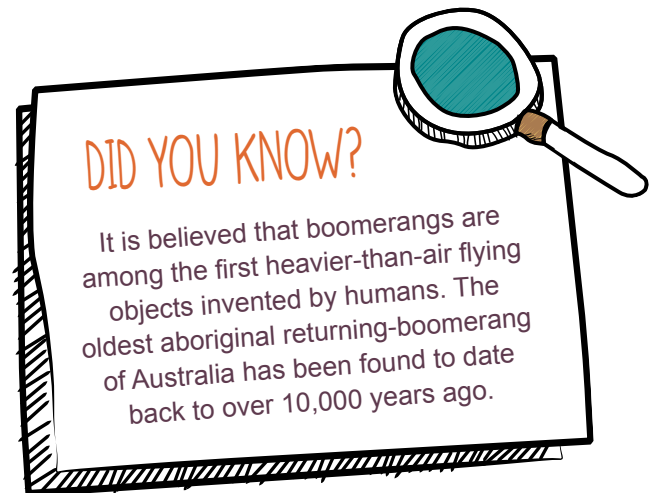
How do our friends react when we are grumpy?

How do our friends react when we are kind?

Being a good friend usually creates those kinds of friends around us – it is a bit like a boomerang effect.

Think about what kind of friend you are and what words you hope your friends would use to describe you?

Write these words on the boomerang you have made.



## PRAY

*Take turns holding the boomerang as you pray.*

God, please give me the wisdom I need to be a really good friend to the people who are in my life. Help me make wise choices when I am with my friends. Amen.

## LIVE

*PICK UP THE CARD/PAPER WITH 'HOW TO CHOOSE FRIENDS' and look again at the proverbs on the table under that heading.*

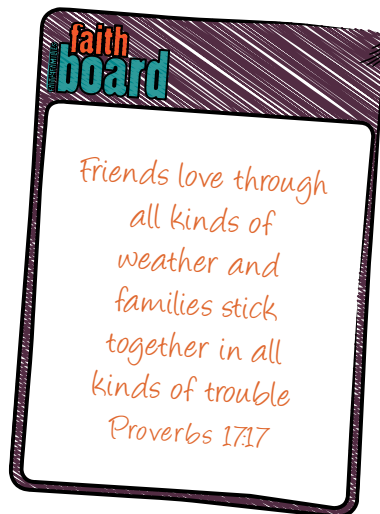
Do you know that some friendships can be good and some friendships can be bad?

Think about your friends and write their names down on your own sheet of paper.

Beside each friend's name draw a happy face or a sad face. Think about which friendships you have that are good and you want to encourage this year and which ones it would be best not to encourage.

This week remember that if we each work on being a good friend, that will help others to be good friends too.

## FAITH BOARD



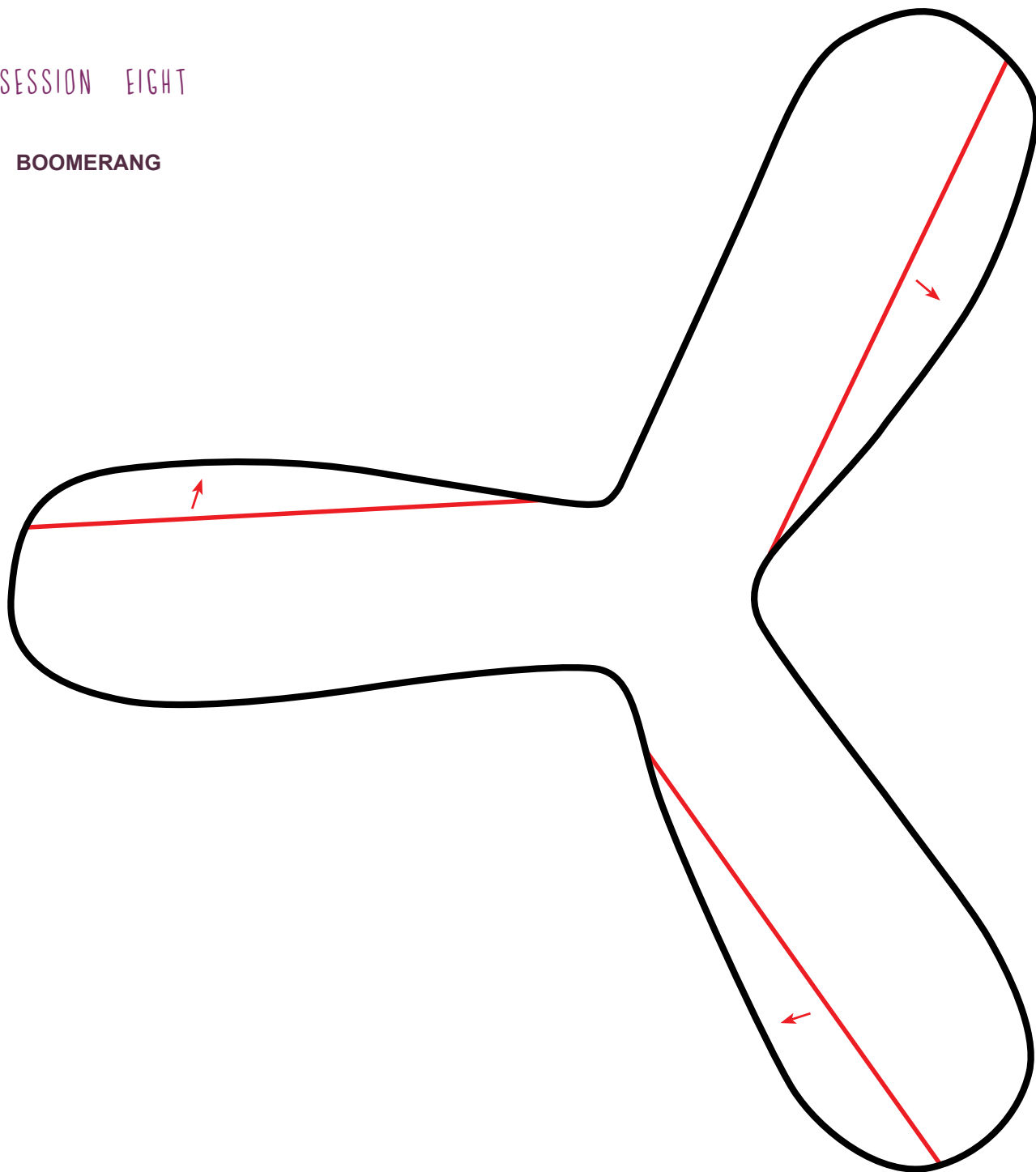
## OTHER IDEAS

**1** **Friends Rub Off** – draw the outline of the word 'FRIENDS' and have everyone colour in the letters with pencil. Then take turns rubbing out the pencil, while talking about how easy it is for friends, whether good or bad, to rub off on you.

**2** **Read and talk about this story...** Two friends were walking through the desert. They had an argument and one friend slapped the other. The hurt friend, without saying anything, wrote in the sand: "TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE." They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but his friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: "TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE." The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, after I have rescued you, you write on a stone. Why?" The other one replied "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

SESSION EIGHT

BOOMERANG



## SESSION EIGHT

### PROVERBS FOR FRIENDSHIP

**PROVERBS 17:17**

A friend is always loyal and a brother is born to help in time of need.

**PROVERBS 27:17**

Iron sharpens iron.

**PROVERBS 11:13**

A gossip goes around spreading rumours, while a trustworthy man stops them.

**PROVERBS 12:26**

The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.

**PROVERBS 11:25**

The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

**PROVERBS 25:18**

Telling lies about others is as harmful as hitting them with an axe, wounding them with a sword, or shooting them with a sharp arrow.

**PROVERBS 18:24**

There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

**PROVERBS 26:23**

Listening to gossip is like eating cheap candy; do you want junk like that in your belly?

**PROVERBS 27:19**

A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses.

**PROVERBS 16:28**

A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.

**PROVERBS 17:9**

Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.

**PROVERBS 25:8-10**

Don't jump to conclusions—there may be a perfectly good explanation for what you just saw. In the heat of an argument, don't betray confidences; Word is sure to get around, and no one will trust you.

**PROVERBS 11:17**

Your own soul is nourished when you are kind: it is destroyed when you are cruel.

**PROVERBS 13:20**

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get into trouble.

**PROVERBS 20:19**

A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang out with chatterers.

**PROVERBS 1:29**

People with understanding control their anger; a hot temper shows great foolishness

**PROVERBS 18:1**

Unfriendly people care only about themselves.