

29.2 Friends forever?

Based on Episode 29: Friends, Romans and Mystery Men



Learning objectives:

- To understand what it means to be loyal
- To think about whether we stand by our friends when they need us

RE Links:

England: 2b) Respond to the challenges of commitment in both their own lives and within religious traditions, recognising how commitment to a religion is shown in a variety of ways

Isle of Man: 4E) Christian values – Is love important? Why? Do you ever share things?
5F) How do the beliefs of Christians influence their actions? Why and how do Christians help others? (QCA – 5D)

Northern Ireland: Morality: respect for each other
The revelation of God: The life of Jesus

Scotland: Christianity: Beliefs: RME 2-01a
Catholic schools: Catholic Christianity:
Reign of God: RERC 2-21a

Wales: The importance that religion places on personal relationships and concern for others

Stimulus material:

Friends and Heroes DVD Episode 29: Friends, Romans and Mystery Men.

This lesson is based on the second half of the episode from 10:51 mins, just after Macky has discovered that Antonius is actually the Masked Rebel.

Bible reference for the main story:

David and Jonathan
1 Samuel 18:5-9, chapter 20

Other resources required:

Copies of Worksheet 29.2a – quiz – enough for one between two pupils
Copies of Worksheet 29.2b, embroidery thread/wool, beads – optional

Introduction:

Ask the pupils if any of them can explain the word loyal or loyalty. What does it mean to be loyal to someone or something?

Explain that today, many shops try to make their customers loyal to their shop by creating loyalty schemes. What loyalty scheme does the local supermarket use? Using Worksheet 29.2a, ask the pupils if they can describe any other shops that use loyalty schemes or special offers to 'keep their customers'.

Feedback and discuss the schemes/offers – do they help to keep the pupils' families 'loyal'?

- What other loyalties do you have? (family, friendships, clubs...)

Activities:

Explain that in today's episode, Macky shows his loyalty to another character and in the Bible Story, from the Old Testament part of the Bible, two friends have their loyalty tested to the limit.

Show Friends and Heroes DVD Episode 29: Friends, Romans and Mystery Men from 10:51 mins, just after Macky has discovered that Antonius is actually the Masked Rebel to 22:19 mins when Antonius has sent Macky home.

Ask the pupils to talk in pairs and to think of things we know about Macky as a character.

- What kind of person is he?
- What do they predict he will do next? Follow Antonius's instructions or do something else?

Feedback and take predictions.

Continue to watch until the end of the episode.

Ask the following questions:

- Why was Antonius reluctant to trust Macky? (he didn't really know him)
- Why was Macky so loyal to Antonius? (he trusted him because he was helping the Friends of Jesus)

Emphasise that, like Jonathan in the Bible story, Macky took risks to be loyal to Antonius because of what he believed in.

All over the world, people have various traditions for showing their loyalty and friendship to others. One such tradition is the exchange of 'friendship bracelets'. Making friendship bracelets stems from Native American traditions, particularly those in Central America. The idea is that a bracelet is woven using threads and given to a friend to wear until it wears out. Wearing the bracelet shows the receiver's loyalty to their friend. Pupils can have a go at plaiting a simple friendship bracelet using instructions on Worksheet 29.2b.

Reflection / Personal search / Response:

Ask the pupils to spend time thinking about their friends.

- Do they think their friends are loyal to them?
- Are they a loyal friend?
- Do they stand by their friends when they are needed?
- Is there someone that they need to be a better friend to?

If appropriate you may like to say a prayer to thank God for the gift of friendship.

Assessment / reporting:

Can the pupils define the word loyal?

Can they use examples from the episode to show how someone has been loyal to another?

Links to other subject areas:

SEAL - Getting on and falling out: Relationships – loyalty

Literacy – Instructions: Y3, Non-fiction, Unit 2; Y5 Non-fiction, Unit 1 – write instructions for making friendship bracelets

Creative/other - Romans – Gladiator fighting

Creative/other - Art – North America – making friendship bracelets

Name:

Date:

Worksheet 29.2a

Are your family loyal shoppers?
Which shops/businesses do you know that offer loyalty schemes or special offers so that you will continue to shop there?



Shop/Business	Loyalty scheme/special offer
<i>e.g. Pizza Village</i>	<i>Buy three meals and get your next meal free</i>

Name:

Date:

Worksheet 29.2b

Friendship bracelets

These instructions will help you to make a very simple friendship bracelet by plaiting threads together. More complicated bracelets are made by making a series of knots. Instructions for these can easily be found on the internet.

You will need:

Wool or embroidery thread
Scissors
A friend!
Beads to decorate (optional)

1. Choose three different colours of wool.
2. Measure and cut a length of wool that will wrap three times around your wrist comfortably.
3. Use that length to cut five more threads, two of each different colour.
4. Gather the ends of all the threads together and tie in a knot. Ask your friend to hold the knot so that you have something to pull against.
5. Pair the same colours together and begin to plait the bracelet by taking the left hand threads and bringing them over the middle threads and then repeating with the right hand threads. Return to the left and continue.
6. When the plait is long enough to tie comfortably around a wrist, repeat step 4 and tie another knot.

As you work, you may like to add beads onto your threads for extra interest.

When you have finished, you are ready to give your bracelet to a friend as a sign of your friendship and your loyalty to each other.

