



# Keeping up with Class

September 2017

## Happenings

**Fellowship Meal! ~ Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm.**  
Return of 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Fellowship Meals!

**Rally Day ~ September 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Return to Sunday School with a sweet time of fellowship!  
Coffee & Donuts @ 9:15am

**Kid's Club Kickoff! ~ Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:45pm**  
Woohooooooooo! Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students  
- invite your friends!

**indian valley**  
FAITH FELLOWSHIP

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## WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

**Happy Birthday!**

9/1 ~ Arlo Robinson  
9/17 ~ Ella Brewer  
9/22 ~ Lauren Trumbore



**Thank you**  
to the many who give of themselves to nurture, lead, teach and love the children of IVFF.

*Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they have the heart.*

# POWERSOURCE

## ASK JESUS:

1. To guide your children into positive, productive friendships.
2. To show your family members how to love and befriend one another.
3. To give your kids the strength to stand up and speak out against bullying.

## Teachable Moments

For many children, a highlight of back-to-school season is reuniting with old friends and making new ones. Friends are vital to emotional and social development. Through friendships, kids learn to relate, respect, share, make decisions, and set boundaries. Having friends also boosts self-esteem by making children feel supported.

Unfortunately, peer conflicts, mistreatment, and even bullying occur even among young children. The National Education Association says 160,000 kids miss school each day because they're afraid of bullying, attacks, or intimidation. The example you set at home can help children develop kindness, love, and respect while maintaining a healthy sense of self.

**Show selfless love.** Help children make the connection between how Jesus loves and cares for us and how he wants us to love and care for one another. (Matthew 7:12).

**Agree to disagree.** Children need to hear that it's okay to have different opinions; after all, God made us each different. But it's never okay to hurt or mock someone with words or actions.

**Know everyone matters.** Focus on activities and behavior standards that are positive, fun, and rewarding in order to help children find the acceptance and recognition they seek. Guiding kids toward loving themselves is key to helping them love other people.

# Nurture Positive Friendships

As children grow and change, so do their friendships and interactions:

**Ages 2 to 4:** Young children depend on others to help them develop social skills. Schedule playdates and use praise to reinforce good behavior such as sharing. Help children refine their negotiation skills to resolve conflicts. Give them ideas about what to say to playmates.

**Ages 5 to 8:** Kids this age are learning to choose their friends. Their self-image is strongly related to other people's opinions of them. To help a bully, emphasize respect and model how to handle conflict without anger.

**Ages 9 to 12:** Parental authority diminishes, and kids want to be with their friends more. Discuss the qualities of a good friend and the down side of cliques and gangs.

**Good Reflections** Let babies and toddlers see themselves and their playmates in mirrors. Point to reflections and say names so kids can attach names to others.

**Stick With Love** Buy stickers with messages about friendship, and let children pass them out to friends. Read 2 John 5-6 and talk about what it means to love our friends.

**Nice to Meet You!** Sit in a circle with family members and practice "introducing" yourselves as if you were meeting new friends. Read aloud Acts 2:42-44 and explain that the first Christians gathered to share about Jesus and their lives. Ask: "What are some ways to get to know somebody new? Why is it easier to be a Christian when you have good friends who are trying to follow Jesus too?"

**Friends Rock!** Play Rock, Paper, Scissors. After each round, the winner reveals a favorite thing (food, TV show, and so on). Then ask: "Which was more fun: telling something about yourself or learning about the other person? Why is it important to learn the likes and dislikes of our friends? Why does Jesus want us to care about our friends?" Read aloud Philippians 2:4. Say: "To be a true

friend, we must know what makes our friends happy. The more we know about someone, the easier it is to offer friendship and support."

**Our Forever Friend** Read aloud John 15:15 and talk about what it means that Jesus is our friend. Discuss ways Jesus has helped you and how he shows us to be friends to others.

**All Are Invited!** When kids feel left out or are excluded from a party, talk about how life isn't always fair or equal. Read aloud Luke 14:7-14 and discuss ways to include people and not exclude.

**Friendship Is a Gift** Together, make crafts such as friendship bracelets that children can give to their friends. Read aloud Acts 20:35 and discuss how giving is a key—and fun—part of friendships.

**Friendship Chain** Have family members stand in a line. Give the first person a roll of crepe paper. People will take turns threading the paper around their head, across their chest, and around both legs. If the paper breaks before you're all connected, start again! Then discuss how families are connected as friends.

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command."  
—John 15:13-14