



## Facilitators Guide – Fostering Friendship Workshop

This workshop was created by Louise Bartlett Team Leader for Kids and Family Ministries for the Baptist Association with input from Sheridan Voysey from Friendship Lab. The workshop includes a video, and opportunities for discussion.

### Resources:

- Download video from vimeo.
- Print copies of the handout at the end of the document for participants at your venue

### Setting Up Your Space

- You will need space to watch and discuss the video in small groups. Discussion **activities** can be done in several small groups around the room.

### WORKSHOP OUTLINE (50 MINUTES)

#### Your intro: (4 mins)

- Let participants know this is a workshop about helping children and young people develop friendships that are healthy and encourage faith
- Everyone will receive a link to the video to watch it again and share with their team.
- Get some interaction from the group around these two questions
  - Who has had the longest friendship?
  - Who has made a new friend recently? How did you meet? What started the friendship?

#### Video Intro (9 mins)

[0:00-9:30] Introduction to friendship including research

#### Pause & Chat (max 2mins)

Ask participants to chat in small groups of 2-3 about what caught their attention so far

#### Video (5 mins)

- [9:30-14:18] Making Friendships | Friends or acquaintances?  
Encouraging Friendships – shared experiences and program content

#### Personal Reflection (1 min)

No need to stop the video - there is a 1 minute counter on screen. This is a time for personal reflection about the opportunities in each person's own ministry context to better facilitate friendship making.

#### Video (10 mins)

[15:20-25:20] Maintaining Friendships| Unhealthy friendship  
Handling conflict in friendship  
PeaceWise framework  
Friendly Culture  
Intergenerational friendships

### Pause & Chat (10 mins)

- If possible, form groups with people who work with the same age-group or in a similar ministry space
  - Firstly, take a moment to think about your ministry context. How friendly is it – what do you think needs strengthening the most: making friendships or maintaining friendships?
  - Share anything you have tried or would like to try within the ministry program to help strengthen friendship
  - When it comes to conflict in friendship what role can we as ministry leaders play?
  - What are the ways your church is developing intergenerational friendships?
  - What are the next steps for your team to dial up the friendship building culture at your church?
- Provide time to discuss and wrap up the session. (5 mins)

### Note:

For SRE teachers this workshop has less specific application but is still helpful learning about children and teens. For any SRE teachers attending this workshop help them to focus on the ways that the curriculum supports friendship building in the school space. In addition, help them to think about their own local church setting and what they observe about friendship.

# FOSTERING FRIENDSHIPS

Friendship an essential skill and an expression of the good news of Jesus

## NOTES

### MAKING FRIENDSHIPS

- Friends or acquaintances
- Encouraging friendships
  - experiences
  - content

### MAINTAINING FRIENDSHIPS

- Unhealthy friendship
- Handling conflict in friendship
- PeaceWise framework
- Friendly culture
- Intergenerational friendships

Opportunities to facilitate  
friendship making in your ministry

### PEACEWISE FRAMEWORK

1. Putting God first
2. Owning our part in a conflict
3. Talking it over with the other person
4. Making it right between us

## DISCUSSION

How friendly is your ministry context? What needs strengthening the most: making friendships or maintaining friendships?

Share anything you have tried to help strengthen friendships

When it comes to conflict in friendship what role can we as ministry leaders play?

What are the ways your church is developing intergenerational friendships?

## NEXT STEPS FOR OUR TEAM

Friendship Lab  
friendshiplab.org

Friendship Lab empowers men and women with the wisdom and skills to make their friendships thrive. Take a look at their recently released course.

PeaceWise

peacewise.org.au

Building peacemakers for life with courses for all ages including specific youth and kids courses. See also the Godspace Purple curriculum that includes a 4 week PeaceWise module approved for teaching in public schools

