

**SUBTOPIC THEME:**

You Were Made for This

**LESSON OBJECTIVE:**

*The purpose of this lesson is for students to understand the foundations of community. We know that community is good and that God created us to be in community with one another, but how does one begin building that? In this small group session students will be given a chance to ask questions, reflect and apply things to their life based on story and scripture.*

**SET UP INFO:***Supplies Needed:*

1. No equipment necessary.
2. Print off Student Response Sheets ahead of time and bring extras if necessary.
3. Bring Bibles to the group and encourage students to bring their own.

*Instructive Prep:*

Understanding the importance of community for military teens can be easy or hard. A lot of them will get it! They have a close-knit community that supports them and looks out for them. They have family that is conscious of their needs and emotions, people who care. Community can be hard for some military teens, too, because they may not have those things, or they may have shut themselves off from the people who care about them.

Transition for students is hard to begin with because of where they are developmentally, still trying to figure a lot of things out. Sometimes being told it is time to PCS again can feel like a crisis in which case one of the most important things for students in crisis is predictability and a consistent schedule. The only problem is when you move...everything changes again! Sure you probably still go to school, but your friends are gone. You still come home after school, but it's different and you still have your family, but who knows the emotional state they are in as well.

So we know that we need community. We know that we need consistency in our lives when facing crisis so then *how* can we build a good support system around us in a new place? How do we start community?

The progression of these studies is four-fold: learn, feel, do and what next. The goal is for students to learn something new, connect at an appropriate emotional level and participate in doing something during the study. Finally, the “What Next” section focuses on a change in attitude, and/or behavior, which you will find in the challenge of the Life Application section. Remember that we are moving towards spiritual and emotional transformation in students’ lives, so the application section based on God’s truth is really the crux of the time together!

### INTRO:

Have you ever been in a new place and felt totally unsure? Ever been somewhere and felt totally alone? Maybe you felt that way that last time you PCS’d. Maybe you feel that way now. Life can be challenging. Everyday looks a little different. Do you realize that when God created you, he created you to be in community with one another? In other words, God created you to have friendship and relationships with others. It’s hard though. Always starting over. We know we need it, but how do we get there?

Hopefully our next few minutes together will help you figure that out. There are tons of things that go into building community, into making community good, friendships that last, but I think these three things are very important and sometimes overlooked. The first is *trust*, followed by *mutual respect*, and *time*. This took a while for me to figure out, but hopefully this will help you with your new start or help you as you welcome new people in. When you learn how to do build community, you will have developed a true sense of resilience into your life!

### INTRO STORY:

I was in a new place again, but this time things were going to be a little bit different. I was going to try to find a new group of friends as fast as possible. At this point, I knew the drill and I wasn’t going to be the last one to fall in line again.

I had decided I would join a sports team to help with this friend making process. Things in common = things to talk about leads to faster friendship. Made sense to me. So I joined the golf team. I know. What was I thinking? Golf. I still don’t know, but I’ll tell you now this story has a good end so it must have worked.

Anyways, first day on the team, I walk into the meeting room, eighteen people and a coach. Two of the eighteen are girls. Blondie looks like she has been here a while, talking

to some of the guys who are obviously older. Then there is this other girl. She has one of those crazy ear piercings, but she also looks like she is new to the area so I make my move. Act confident, even though I may not be. Introduce myself. Pretend I belong already. One friend made. A couple of the guys look new too. We move over to them. Start talking golf. I have played enough to know a fair amount about golf, but these guys *like* golf! Two more friends made.

After the meeting I walk back with my new friend with the crazy ear piercing. She seems really nice. Says she goes by Fish, a nickname her friends back home gave her. I can tell she misses them, we all miss those we have left behind, but I can think about that later. I have made three friends today and we all plan on hanging out later. I need to figure out what there is to do around here.

When I look back on that first day I see a lot of things, but mostly I see that what I made were not the kind of friends who would fill me up and walk me through hard times. They were friends I could hang out with and have fun with. They were buddies. That's good, but we need something more than that. Those guys that I hung out with were pretty cool, there were more guys on the team than girls so more and more of them hung out and some of them had classes with other guys from other teams and so our friend group grew, but my best friends there turned out to be Blondie who I later learned was named Kat and the girl with the crazy piercing, Fish.

Kat, Fish and I did a ton of really fun things together. We checked out different youth groups to go to. Played golf together, although we never did get to be that good and just enjoyed life together.

What I learned by being friends with them was what many people don't realize, is that true, deep and meaningful friendships take time to grow and cultivate. I thought I had become friends with them that first week, but you don't share the true sorrows of your heart in that first week and you don't learn the stories of triumph and pain the first week you meet someone. That kind of friendship takes time to grow, more time than I wanted it to, but since it did take time those friendship though we are mile a part are still some of the friendships I hold most dear. Part of that is because they took time to build. The other part of that though is because of the trust and mutual respect we had toward each other.

Here is what I mean by that. It was almost a year later. A bunch of us were hanging out at my house watching this movie I was pretty excited about. I had been telling everyone how good it was all day! Now we were finally watching it and it was awesome! There were some parts I guess I had forgotten about, but whatever. It was a great action movie.

A couple of days later I was walking around school trying to find Kat. I hadn't seen much of her since our movie night and I was wondering if something had happened. I have had friends drop out of my life before, you probably know what I'm talking about and it

stinks! I finally found her and after some probing she said something that really surprised me. She told *me*. That *she* was *disappointed in me!*

I had been thinking something had happened to her and all this time, two days; she had been trying to figure out how to tell me she was disappointed in me. Ouch! She told me she had thought the movie had questionable content and was disappointed I would have not only said it was a good movie, but got it so we could all watch it together when her and I both strive to follow God and try to set a good example for our friends who don't.

I was floored. Shocked. Speechless and that doesn't happen very often. But it was then I knew our friendship had reached a different level, we weren't buddies who hung out. We were sisters in Christ. She knew there was enough respected me enough to share the truth with me in love. And I trusted her enough to listen because her voice mattered in my life.

Your buddies hang out with you; your friends speak truth into your life. They take you off your high horse so that you can be built up better. It's hard because we want those kinds of friendships to spring up over night, but they don't they take time. Think about the people you really trust. It probably took some time to build that kind of trust, but that's the difference and my friendships with Kat and Fish are the kind of friendships God wants to help you build in your life. God wants to give you more than buddies; he wants to give you brothers and sisters in Christ.

### INTRO QUESTIONS:

1. The author talked about buddies and friends that become brothers and sisters; can you recognize those people in your life? Who are they? (See Student Response Sheet)
2. Time, trust and respect. What are other things you think are important to the friendships that you have? (See Student Response Sheet)

### PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Give students time to answer each of these questions on their own. Remember this is an important part of the time together, as students must reflect on their own lives to see the truth of what is going on.

1. What has been your approach to making friends in the past? Were they friends or buddies in the end?
2. Making friends can be hard. Has someone new ever tried to make friends with you? Did you help them out or let them be? Why? (See Student Response Sheet)

3. Who was the first best friend that you made? What made them such a good friend? Did you have things in common? Get to do things together? Like the same band, sports team? What made it work? (See Student Response Sheet)
4. Do you believe that God desires for you to have deep and meaningful relationships? What is stopping you from pursuing them? How can God play a bigger part in helping you out?
5. Write your own questions:

---



---



---



---

### CENTRAL BIBLE PASSAGE:

*This passage shows us a great example of deep and meaningful friendship. As we see in this passage Jonathan's father the King wants to kill David because God has promised that David will be king after him instead of his son Jonathan. At this point Jonathan and David have become good friends, they have good through a lot with each other and Jonathan is excited for David to be king because he understands it is God's will.*

*Take some time to read this passage, it's long, but it's good! Look at everything that happens. Do you think there was a lot of time put into this friendship? How much trust do you think it took for David to sit and wait? How much respect must Jonathan have for David for him to be okay with David taking his place as king?*

### 1 Samuel 20 (GNT)

#### *Jonathan Helps David*

1 Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and went to Jonathan. "What have I done?" he asked. "What crime have I committed? What wrong have I done to your father to make him want to kill me?"

2 Jonathan answered, "God forbid that you should die! My father tells me everything he does, important or not, and he would not hide this from me. It just isn't so!"

3 But David answered,[a] "Your father knows very well how much you like me, and he has decided not to let you know what he plans to do, because you would be deeply hurt. I swear to you by the living Lord that I am only a step away from death!"

4 Jonathan said, "I'll do anything you want."

5 "Tomorrow is the New Moon Festival," David replied, "and I am supposed to eat with the king. But if it's all right with you, I will go and hide in the fields until the evening of the day after tomorrow. 6 If your father notices that I am not at the table, tell him that I begged your permission to hurry home to Bethlehem, since it's the time for the annual sacrifice there for my whole family. 7 If he says, 'All right,' I will be safe; but if he becomes angry, you will know that he is determined to harm me. 8 Please do me this favor, and keep the sacred promise you made to me. But if I'm guilty, kill me yourself. Why take me to your father to be killed?"

9 "Don't even think such a thing!" Jonathan answered. "If I knew for sure that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn't I tell you?"

10 David then asked, "Who will let me know if your father answers you angrily?"

11 "Let's go out to the fields," Jonathan answered. So they went, 12 and Jonathan said to David, "May the Lord God of Israel be our witness![b] At this time tomorrow and on the following day I will question my father. If his attitude toward you is good, I will send you word. 13 If he intends to harm you, may the Lord strike me dead if I don't let you know about it and get you safely away. May the Lord be with you as he was with my father! 14 And if I remain alive, please keep your sacred promise and be loyal to me; but if I die,[c] 15 show the same kind of loyalty to my family forever. And when the Lord has completely destroyed all your enemies, 16 may our promise to each other still be unbroken. If it is broken, the Lord will punish you."[d]

17 Once again Jonathan made David promise to love him, for Jonathan loved David as much as he loved himself. 18 Then Jonathan said to him, "Since tomorrow is the New Moon Festival, your absence will be noticed if you aren't at the meal. 19 The day after tomorrow your absence will be noticed[e] even more; so go to the place where you hid yourself the other time, and hide behind the pile of stones there.[f] 20 I will then shoot three arrows at it, as though it were a target. 21 Then I will tell my servant to go and find them. And if I tell him, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you; get them,' that means that you are safe and can come out. I swear by the living Lord that you will be in no danger. 22 But if I tell him, 'The arrows are on the other side of you,' then leave, because the Lord is sending you away. 23 As for the promise we have made to each other, the Lord will make sure that we will keep it forever."

24 So David hid in the fields. At the New Moon Festival, King Saul came to the meal 25 and sat in his usual place by the wall. Abner sat next to him, and Jonathan sat across the table from him.[g] David's place was empty, 26 but Saul said nothing that day, because he thought, "Something has happened to him, and he is not ritually pure." 27 On the following day, the day after the New Moon Festival, David's place was still empty,



and Saul asked Jonathan, “Why didn't David come to the meal either yesterday or today?”

28 Jonathan answered, “He begged me to let him go to Bethlehem. 29 ‘Please let me go,’ he said, ‘because our family is celebrating the sacrificial feast in town, and my brother ordered me to be there. So then, if you are my friend, let me go and see my relatives.’ That is why he isn't in his place at your table.”

30 Saul became furious with Jonathan and said to him, “How rebellious and faithless your mother was! Now I know you are taking sides with David and are disgracing yourself and that mother of yours! 31 Don't you realize that as long as David is alive, you will never be king of this country? Now go and bring him here—he must die!”

32 “Why should he die?” Jonathan replied. “What has he done?”

33 At that, Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him, and Jonathan realized that his father was really determined to kill David. 34 Jonathan got up from the table in a rage and ate nothing that day—the second day of the New Moon Festival. He was deeply distressed about David, because Saul had insulted him. 35 The following morning Jonathan went to the fields to meet David, as they had agreed. He took a young boy with him 36 and said to him, “Run and find the arrows I'm going to shoot.” The boy ran, and Jonathan shot an arrow beyond him. 37 When the boy reached the place where the arrow had fallen, Jonathan shouted to him, “The arrow is farther on! 38 Don't just stand there! Hurry up!” The boy picked up the arrow and returned to his master, 39 not knowing what it all meant; only Jonathan and David knew. 40 Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy and told him to take them back to town.

41 After the boy had left, David got up from behind the pile of stones,<sup>[h]</sup> fell on his knees and bowed with his face to the ground three times. Both he and Jonathan were crying as they kissed each other; David's grief was even greater than Jonathan's.<sup>[i]</sup> 42 Then Jonathan said to David, “God be with you. The Lord will make sure that you and I, and your descendants and mine, will forever keep the sacred promise we have made to each other.” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

*That's a pretty crazy account, but I love the example it sets for us. A buddy would have been disappointed you missed the party, but thought nothing of it. Jonathan was a step a head. He knew David was going to miss, knew why and was looking out for him. These are the kind of friendships God desires for you to have in your life, friends that you can have fun with and friends who will be there for you when you need them. That's part of being in community.*

**LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Look around at the people in your life. Which ones are friends? Which ones are buddies? If you feel like all you have are buddies, decide who you want to invest more time and energy into. Remember it will take time to develop that kind of friendship, but it is worth the investment.
2. After deciding whom you want to invest more time into, decide *how* you want to do it. Write it down along with your lists of buddies and friends. Maybe you feel like you already have good friendships. Who is looking to move from a buddy to a friend? How can you invest more time with them? (See Student Response Sheet)
3. Trust and respect can be hard things to build, but they are also important. Think about the people in your life that you respect and trust. Write their names down. Why do you respect them or trust them? How can you learn from them and apply these things to your life?
4. Pray over these things. We know it can be hard. We know sometimes friendships can feel like they are impossible to make and maintain, but we also know that God guides us and puts different people in our lives for a reason. Learn from the people around you. What makes their friendship great? Is it because they have the same interests? Live close by each other? Start where you are. Find the people around you. Take baby steps. Remember that friendships take time to build. Pray that God will open your eyes and help you understand people better. (See Student Response Sheet)
5. Write your own challenge:

---



---



---



---



STUDENT RESPONSES:

1. The author talked about buddies and friends that become brothers and sisters; can you recognize those people in your life? Who are they?
2. Time, trust and respect. What are other things you think are important to the friendships that you have?
3. Making friends can be hard. Has someone new ever tried to make friends with you? Did you help them out or let them be? Why?
4. Who was the first best friend that you made? What made them such a good friend? Did you have things in common? Get to do things together? Like the same band, sports team? What made it work?

