



4th Grade Video Scripts - Invitation to Friendship

Think back to who your best friends were in elementary school. Does that thought bring back good or bad memories? I know I can remember those people and all the crazy times we had in school. I still have not forgiven one friend for always getting me in trouble in 4th grade! Enough about our memories though. Your child is building significant friendships this year, and we want to help you navigate that particular issue.

This year, we are inviting your child to the Family Experience called "Invitation to Friendship." Why this year? 4th grade is a huge marker in friendship development for kids. For the first time, many children form a deep relationship with a "best friend." For the first time, many keep secrets from their parents that only their friends know about. Some of your children are going to secretly notice that boy or girl across the room and not really know what to do about it. Also, with technology at their fingertips, many 4th graders can now stay in contact with friends outside of school through texting. This is the year to process the power of friendship with your child.

We are going to invite your child to see the influence friends have on their day-to-day life. We will do this by giving you 3 Kick-starters that will help you build a foundation for you to begin this year's Family Experience. These Kick-starters are expounded upon in our Kick-starter Guide. They will have questions and activities for you to do

with your children that set up the Family Experience. These Kick-starters will include discussion on what loyalty, respect and encouragement looks like in friendships.

In 4th grade, you are going to see a new level of maturity so expect the dialogue with each experience to go to a different level. The goal this year is not only to help your child connect to strong friendships but also discover what it means to be a good friend.

These three family talk experiences will lead you to a powerful Family Experience Ceremony which will include a special Piece of Artwork to be displayed in their room. Your Parent Guide will give you step-by-step instructions on how to carry this out. This year, we want to ask your child's closest friends at church and school one word that describes them. Collect these words and then collect pictures of your child and their friends. We want you to create a collage they can hang in their room to always remember the power of friendship. You can do this by buying a simple pre-made picture frame from Wal-Mart, or if you are creative, make it on your own.

You know your child and what will work. Never forget that friendships shape our child's story, so help them choose those friends wisely.