

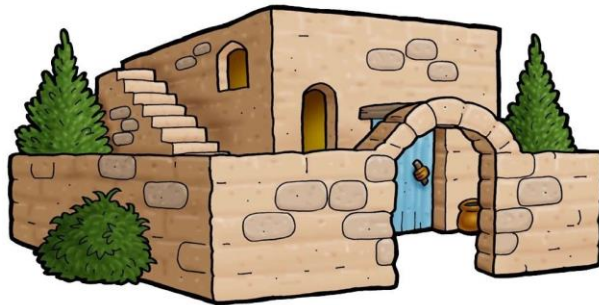
Collective Worship – FRIENDSHIP 4 (Friends in Trouble)

To watch the video click on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnJN7EwmMIU>

Welcome – As we light the candle we join together to worship God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and think about the value 'Friendship'.

Introduction – I've been watching the 'Lion King' on DVD this week. It is one of my favourite films. Simba makes friends with some unlikely animals – a meerkat and a warthog. But they help him when he is in trouble. They put themselves in danger to help Simba against his uncle Scar.

Houses in Biblical times were very different to today's houses. Most had flat roofs and they often had steps going up the side of the house so people could use the roof as extra space. Here is a picture of a typical house in Biblical times:



Bible Story – This week's story is about four men who helped their friend by bringing him to Jesus.

Mark 2:1-12 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

2 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. **2** They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. **3** Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. **4** Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

6 Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, **7** "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? **9** Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? **10** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, **11** "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." **12** He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Things to think about -

I bet the people gathered in the house were surprised! The 4 men did what they thought was best for their friend.

We usually want what is best for our friends even if it means we have to put their needs before ours.

Why did the men help their friend? What did they think was going to happen to their friend? Who did they think Jesus was? What are sins? Why did Jesus say that the paralysed man's sins were forgiven?

Sometimes we can't help our friends by ourselves, but might be able to find someone who can. Christians can pray to God and ask for his help in difficult situations or when we are worried about things, friends and family members.

Follow-up activities -

Build a house out of Lego or cardboard box.

Make a video of the story of the Paralysed Man using Lego figures.

Think about the feelings of the different people throughout this story – the paralysed man, the friends, Jesus, the owner of the house, the crowd. Have a go at drawing cartoon faces of their emotions during the story.

Think about who you would talk to if you were feeling sad or if a friend needed help.

Listen to the Bruno Mars song 'Count on Me!' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yc6T9iY9SOU>

Prayer-

Dear God, Help me to know how best to help our friends when they are feeling unhappy. Amen

Follow this link to watch the video of this Collective Worship : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnJN7EwmMIU>