

**Learning about...****Friendship & Accepting Differences****Opening Prayer** (hold hands with those present)

God is all there is to see.

God is here inside of me.

Smiles and hugs and love and fun.

All God's things for everyone.

I give thanks to God. And so it is. Amen!

**Suggested Supplies for Lesson:**

- **READING:** a book about resolving differences with Friends (e.g., "You Can Be a Friend" by Tony & Lauren Dungy)
- Paper, crayons / markers; stickers
- Glue, scissors, tape, stapler (optional)
- Plastic or string-like cords and various types of beads to make friendship bracelets (optional)

(Total time: 40-45 minutes)

URL links below active as of 7/20/2022

**Read/Hear Stories**

Visit the library to find a book on FRIENDSHIP (see suggestion above). This [LINK](#) provides a list of 16 other books, suggested by teachers. Other links include: <https://happilyeverelephants.com/home/childrens-books-about-friendship/> and <https://childrenslibrarylady.com/sweet-picture-books-positive-friendships/>

**Discussion Questions**

1. There are often differences between people, including between friends. Based on the story you heard or read, what differences were there between the friends?
2. What are some of the activities the friends in the story liked to do?
3. What kinds of activities do YOU like to do – either alone or with a friend? (children may want to draw it)
4. Whenever you have a problem or hard decision to make, who do you go to for help to figure it out?
5. What do you do (or have done) when you meet someone who is different from you in some way?
6. What are some ways you let your friends know you care about them – just as they are? (draw it)

**Spiritual Tools – Cause and Effect**

In the Science of Mind philosophy we believe in accepting people and their beliefs as they are for them. It is not necessary or kind to force your beliefs onto someone else NOR to have such things forced onto you. Also, sometimes it is a good thing to accept things and situations for what they are at the time. Everything changes, including the way we think about things. So no matter what the circumstance is right now, it will likely change into something else at some point.

Remember: ***This, too, shall pass.*** (an old Persian saying)

**Project – Friendship Bracelets**

Provide children with cording materials or string and beads (optional) so they can make at least 2 bracelets (one for a friend and one for themselves). Search online for "how to make friendship bracelets" to see the many options there.

**Closing Prayer** (hold hands with those present)

You've Got a Friend in Me (song lyrics by Randy Newman)

**You've Got a Friend in Me**

You've got a friend in me.

You've got a friend in me.

When the road looks rough ahead

And you're miles and miles

From your nice warm bed,

You just remember

What your old pal said,

[Oh], you've got a friend in me.

Yeah, you've got a friend in me.