

# LESSON 13

## Focus

GOD'S YOUR BFF

## Overview

## Theme

The Psalms: A Study of God

## Big Question

How Big Is God?

## Scripture

The Psalms

## Scripture Memory

Psalm 145:1-7

|                    | Section  | Students will . . .   | Supplies  |
|--------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Pre-Start</b>   | Pre-Start Activities<br>(15 minutes before class begins) | build relationships and have fun!   | Pre-Start Activities (pp. 8, 9), SuperStart! DVD (Intro Loop), SuperStart! CD, CD and DVD players, TV or projection equipment |
| <b>Large Group</b> | Get-Started Activity<br>(5 minutes)                      | think about what makes a best friend.   | SuperStart! DVD (Countdown), DVD player, TV or projection equipment, roll paper, colored pencils or markers                   |
|                    | Teaching Time<br>(15 minutes)                            | discover that God wants to be their best friend forever.                        | SuperStart! DVD (Sticky Situations Game Show Clips, Lesson 13), DVD player, TV or projection equipment, Bible                 |
|                    | Worship<br>(10 minutes)                                  | praise God for being their best friend forever.                                 | SuperStart! CD, CD player   |
| <b>Small Group</b> | Scripture Study<br>(15 minutes)                          | study the Scripture to discover that God wants to be their best friend forever. | <i>SuperStart!</i> magazines, Bibles, pencils or pens   |
|                    | Scripture Memory Discovery<br>(5 minutes)                | learn Psalm 145:1-7.  | Bibles (optional: paper, pencils or pens)   |
|                    | Life Application<br>(5 minutes)                          | share about last weeks' challenge and discuss a challenge for this week.        | small pieces of foil, scissors, pencils, basket   |
|                    | Recap<br>(5 minutes)                                     | be encouraged to enjoy their friendship with God.                               | none  |
| <b>Extra Time</b>  | Extra-Time Activities                                    | further explore the lesson.   | Unit 3 Extra-Time Activities (p. 64)  |

### Things to do ahead of time:

1. Set out the supplies for the Pre-Start Activities.
2. Collect supplies for the small groups. Put the supplies in sets, one for each small-group leader.
3. Make sure the DVD and CD players and projection equipment are cued and ready to go.



### Supplies

Pre-Start Activities (pp. 4-9), SuperStart! DVD Intro Loop, Countdown, Sticky Situations Game Show Clips, Lesson 13, SuperStart! CD, DVD and CD players, TV or projection equipment, 8 1/2" x 11" roll paper, reusable adhesive, colored pencils or markers

### Before Class

Attach a few sheets of roll paper to a wall and put colored pencils or markers beneath them.

## Pre-Start

[15 minutes before class]

Choose several of the Pre-Start Activities for students to do as they arrive. You can play songs from the CD and show the DVD Intro Loop as students have fun and interact with the volunteers.

## Large Group

[30 minutes]

**Get-Started Activity, Teaching Time, Worship**

**Get-Started Activity** [5 minutes]

Play one of the Countdowns when you are ready to begin the Get-Started Activity. Ask students to take a minute to think of a one-sentence definition of a best friend and write it on one of the papers on the wall. When everyone is done, read some of the definitions.

**Teaching Time** [15 minutes]

Prepare students for the video by saying, **For several weeks we've been watching video clips of the Sticky Situations Game Show. Unfortunately, this is the last clip we'll see from that show. If you remember, Patrick is the director, Cassidy is the camera girl, and Samantha is the game show assistant. Samantha had accidentally dyed Cassidy's hair green. Now Patrick tells Samantha what else happened to Cassidy.**

Show the video clip.

After the video clip, ask these questions and solicit one or two answers for each:

- **Would you want a friend like Samantha?** *(yes, I love brownies; yes, she's always trying to be nice; no, she does crazy things)*
- **What's the difference between a friend and a best friend?** *(a best friend knows more about you, you spend more time with a best friend, you can have lots of friends but only one best friend)*
- **What puts the best in best friends?** *(we agree on everything, we like to do the same things, we understand each other)*
- **How do you know when you have a best friend?** *(we start doing everything together, we talk a lot, we share secrets)*

Best friends are great, but there may be times in your life when you may not have a best friend. And even when you have a best friend, that best friend may let you down. But there's someone who wants to be your best friend who will never let you down. He will always be there for you, always love you, always listen to you, and always care about you. He always wants to be your BFF—your best friend forever.

Have a volunteer come to the front and read Psalm 145:8, 9. Ask the volunteer to tell how God will treat us. **When GOD'S YOUR BFF, He will always be kind to you, not get mad at you, and always love you. He will always be good to you and care about you.** Ask students to stand in groups of three. Ask two students in each group to stand back-to-back, leaving one student without a partner. Have students stand together for several seconds.

- For those of you who didn't have a partner to stand back-to-back with, how did it feel? (*lonely, I felt out of place*)

**When GOD'S YOUR BFF, you won't feel lonely or out of place, because He will always be there for you.** Still standing in their groups of three, ask the student in each group who was left out before to choose one of the other students as a partner. Tell these new partners to whisper a few things to each other, leaving the third student out.

- For those of you who weren't included in the conversations, how did you feel? (*left out, like they were talking about me, not very good*)

**When GOD'S YOUR BFF, you won't feel left out because He will always be there for you. You'll always have someone to talk to and someone who will listen. You'll always have someone who loves you and really cares about you.** Have students sit down. Psalm 13:5, 6 says that God's love will never fail and He will always be good to us. That's a really great best friend to have!

Most of us usually only have one best friend at a time. But God is so big that He can be a best friend to each one of us. He is so big that He can care about and love everyone in the whole world and still have time to spend just with you. **GOD'S YOUR BFF, your best friend forever, if you want Him to be. He wants to be your best friend whether you're funny or serious, crabby or happy. He doesn't want to be your best friend for just this week or this month, but forever.**

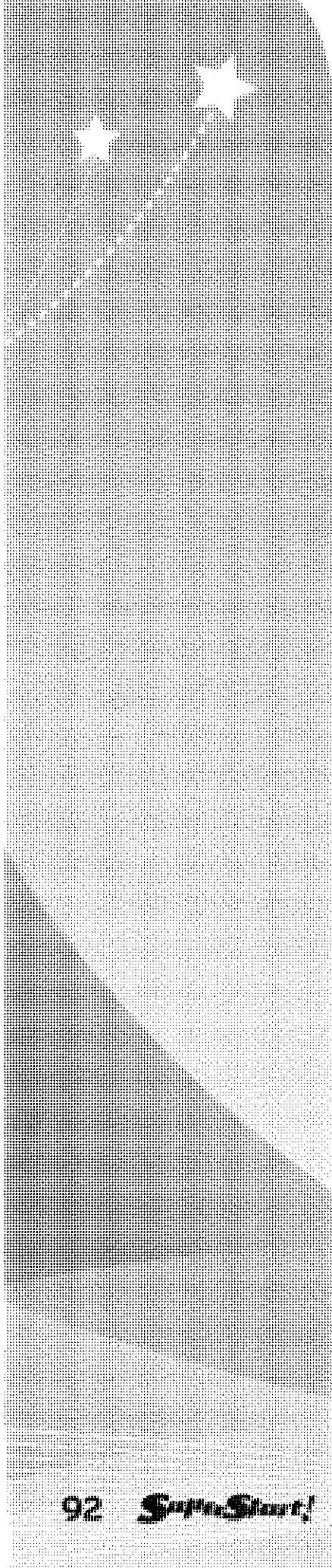
We've been asking a big question for several weeks, "How big is God?" I think we've discovered a lot about how big God is. When you remember a word that tells about how big God is, call it out. We've learned that God's holiness is \_\_\_\_\_ (*awesome*). God's power is \_\_\_\_\_ (*ginormous*). God always \_\_\_\_\_ (*sticks*) with you. And, **GOD'S YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ (BFF). That's a big, big God!**

## Bible Insight

We get to know quite a lot about God from the book of Psalms. God is great and powerful, but He's also caring and compassionate to everyone He has made. His ability to be close to everyone who desires it is one of God's essential attributes.

## Teacher Tip

If you have time and would like to add more thoughts from Scripture, see these passages: Psalm 36:5; 6; 32:7; 116:6; 139:23. You can also use thoughts from Psalm 145:1-7, the Scripture memory for the unit.



**Worship** (10 minutes)

Ask students to join you in praising God because He's your best friend forever. Lead in two or three songs from the CD, especially "God Is With Us."

Lead in prayer by saying two or three sentences thanking God for His forever friendship.

Have students go to their small groups to go deeper into God's Word and for relationship building.

**Q&A with Eric**

If you have time, there are three fun review questions on the DVD for this lesson (Q&A with Eric, Lesson 13). You can pretend you're doing your own Sticky Situations Game Show by choosing one boy and one girl to be the contestants, or have the boys compete against the girls. Pause the DVD player after each question so students can answer. You can use this fun video clip in lots of ways: at the end of the large-group time, at the end of the small-group time while you're waiting for parents to arrive, just before the lesson Recap in the small-group time, or during the Pre-Start Activities. It's one more fun way to help students remember the important concepts in the lesson.

**Review Questions**

1. Samantha's *Teen* magazine helped her
  - a. discover her new back-to-school look.
  - b. make friends with Cassidy.
  - c. **give Cassidy the hives.**
2. God wants to be your best friend because
  - a. He doesn't think you have any friends.
  - b. **He knows all about you and still loves you to death.**
  - c. He wants to play all your video games.
3. To be best friends with God you have to
  - a. be really good.
  - b. **just ask Him.**
  - c. go to the right church.

## Small Group

[30 minutes]

**Scripture Study, Scripture Memory Discovery, Life Application, Recap**

### Scripture Study [15 minutes]

Hand out the *SuperStart!* magazines and pencils or pens and have students turn to pages 6 and 7. Ask students to take a minute to match the text messages with what they mean and then talk about the messages. **Think about a text message you would like to send to God and write it on the blank cell phone screen.**

- **So what text message would you like to send to God?** (*WUBMBFF: Will you be my best friend forever? THX4BMBFF: Thanks for being my best friend forever. WU: What's up?*)

Have volunteers read Psalm 139:1-10. Ask students to listen for words and phrases that show ways that God is a best friend.

Ask the following questions. Encourage all students to participate and be sure to give students time to think about the questions.

- **How does this psalm describe God's friendship?** (*He knows me. He knows what I'm thinking. He goes wherever I go. He guides me and protects me.*)
- **How is God's friendship like or unlike your friendship with your best friend right now?** (*My best friend is with me a lot, but not all of the time. My best friend can't protect me like God can. I can see my best friend but I can't see God.*)
- **How can you know if God is your best friend?** (*when I talk to Him a lot and listen to Him, when I tell Him my problems, when I tell Him I love Him*)

**GOD'S YOUR BFF if you want Him to be. You can count on God to be your best friend forever. He will never turn you down or turn you away.**

Have students look at Psalm 139:1-10 again. Tell students that one really cool way to pray is to use a passage of Scripture. There are several ways they can do this; here are a few ideas. Students can use their own names instead of the words *me* or *I*, offering the words as a prayer to God. Or they can put into their own words what the verses mean and offer those thoughts as a prayer to God. Give students a few minutes to pray.

### Supplies

*SuperStart!* magazines, pencils or pens, Bibles, small pieces of felt, scissors, basket (optional paper)

### Teacher Tip

Be sure to be sensitive to your students' reading abilities. Ask for volunteers to read aloud or be sure to call on those whom you know like to read aloud. Include reluctant readers by asking them to listen as you or others read Scripture aloud and let them answer questions.

### Optional Activity

"In Your Own Words" on page 25 in the magazines is a prayer based on Psalm 139 that students could use as a prayer.



## Optional Activity

Have each student write the reference "Psalm 145:1-7" on a piece of paper and roll it into a megaphone. Have the students read or say the verses through the megaphone as a reminder to tell others about our big God.

## Reminder

Last week, students were challenged to show God how thankful they are for His help and that He always sticks with them. Celebrate with those who have a good report. Encourage, don't embarrass, those who either forgot or who didn't have a good experience.

Send home the SuperStart! magazines with students this week. Point out the fun, extra things you didn't do in class that they can enjoy at home.

## Scripture Memory Discovery (5 minutes)

Have students turn to Psalm 145:1-7 and ask for volunteers to read aloud the verses. Then ask if any of the students would like to say the verses from memory.

- **What words or phrases tell about how big God is?** (*King, great, worthy of praise, greatness, mighty acts, majesty, wonderful works, power, awesome works, great deeds, abundant goodness*)

**Our God is so big that we can praise Him forever and ever!**

## Life Application (5 minutes)

Ask students to share how their challenge from last week went. Get their ideas about what they can do this week to enjoy their friendship with God. Ideas include talking to Him a lot and telling God how much He's loved. Give students small pieces of foil and have them cut the foil into circles. Students can use pencils to carve the letters BFF on the foil. Then have students cut the foil in half with a jagged cut. Encourage students to leave one half in a basket you've provided and take the other half home so they'll be reminded of their friendship with God.

## Recap (5 minutes)

**I hope you've discovered that GOD'S YOUR BFF. God is my BFF too.** Tell a little bit about your friendship with God, how you spend time with Him, or when God became your BFF. **I talk to Him a lot most every day. He protects me, helps me know the best things to do, and is always with me, even in really tough times. I have no better best friend! If you don't know God as a best friend, maybe you'll want to talk to me or your parents about it. You don't want to miss out on the best friendship of your entire life!**

## Extra Time

As you have time, let students participate in one or more of the Extra-Time Activities on page 64.