

# Girls Only

## Friendship Factor

### Additional Project Ideas

**Famous friends.** Help the girls choose famous fictional friends (from a movie, TV show, or book). Let the girls talk about whether or not the friends are “good” friends. Does their relationship reflect the principles of a Godly friendship? If the friends are ever in conflict, how do they handle it? Let the girls present what they’ve found to the group.

**Meet new people.** Each week, choose a different criterion to pair up the girls (birthday month, eye color, favorite kind of pizza, etc.). Try to encourage girls who are not normally friends to pair up. Allow extra time each week for the girls to spend getting to know each other. Have the girls commit to pray for their “new friend” during the week. At the end of the unit, ask each girl to write a short report or journal entry to you about what they learned getting to know other girls.

**Think about it.** Have the girls write an essay about their friends including what qualities their friends have, what makes them good friends, and special memories the girl has with her friends.

**Party it up.** Have a friendship party. Celebrate the friendships the girls have made throughout their time in girls clubs. If possible, surprise the girls with a video of pictures of the girls throughout their time in Girls Ministries.

**Say thank you.** Have each girl think of an authority figure who has had a positive influence in her life. Provide the girls with stationery and have each girl write a note to the authority figure thanking them for the positive influence they’ve had in her life.

**Read about it.** Read the book *Mean Girls* or *Mean Girls Gone* by Hayley DiMarco as a club. These books are easy to read and have a fun layout. Leader guides and discussion starters are also available.

**Write a letter.** Pair up the girls. Have each set of girls pray together before writing. The letter should begin “Dear (name).” Let the girls know that you’re putting 15 minutes on the clock and they should write for the entire 15 minutes. Talking or laughing with anyone other than their partners won’t be tolerated during this activity. Have the girls write about two things that they appreciate about their partner and one area where their partner could improve. Instruct the girls on giving constructive criticism before the activity begins. If the girls run out of things to say about their partner, encourage the girls to ask questions of the other person or write about themselves. Have the girls exchange letters and talk about what they’ve written. After the girls have shared with each other, encourage them to discuss what they learned and how they felt with the group. Encourage the girls to pray for their partner throughout the Friends For life unit.

**Picture it.** Make picture frames. Simple wooden frames are available from craft stores relatively inexpensively. Take a picture as a club and make enough copies for each girl to have a picture. Have the girls place the club picture in their decorated frames.

## Resource Ideas

- *Mean Girls, Revised and Updated* by Hayley DiMarco, Revell, 2008.
- *Mean Girls Gone: A Spiritual Guide to Getting Rid of Mean* by Hayley DiMarco, Baker, 2005.
- *Soul Sister, Connect: The Lowdown on Friendships and Relationships* by Kendall Payne, Gospel Light 2005.
- *Wisdom On...Friends, Dating, & Relationships* by Mark Matlock, Youth Specialties, 2008.

## Additional Discussion Questions

### Discovery #1

- What are some characteristics you look for in a friend? What are some characteristics of your good friends?
- Why is it important that a friend stays with you? Why is it important that a friend is there for you? Have you gone through any struggles where your friends were there for you?
- What can you learn from David and Jonathan? Do you have any relationships that are like David and Jonathan?

### Discovery #2

- What are some good ways to gain and keep friends?
- Have you gone through any times in your life where you didn't have many friends? How did you feel? How did you get through that?
- What can we learn from Jesus about the way He treated people? How could that help you in gaining friends?

### Discovery #3

- How can you be a good friend?
- What can we learn from the biblical examples of friendship?
- Do you have any friends who "stick closer than a brother"? What do those friends mean to you?

### Discovery #4

- What are your responsibilities to your friends?
- Did anything stand out to you about Ruth and Naomi's relationship?
- What can we learn from Job's friends?
- How can you be more like Cornelius?
- What are some important lessons to learn from Paul's friends?

### Discovery #5

- How do you deal with conflict in your friendships right now?
- How should you handle conflicts? What can you do to handle conflicts better?
- What does gossip have to do with conflict? How can you avoid gossip?

### Discovery #6

- Who is your Best Friend?
- What characteristics are important to look for in friends?
- How can you be a friend more like Jesus?