Friendship Bible Studies

Friendship Bible Studies is an inter-denominational Christian set of curricula for youth and adults with intellectual disabilities. The program is for self-contained groups headed by a leader, with friends (people with intellectual disabilities) each of whom has a personal mentor.

This basic set of materials is a three-year bible study with 30-35 sets of sessions per year at two levels, “youth” (ages 10-20) and “adult” (Ages 21 and up). Friendship also provides numerous other support materials, additional curricula and publications. The Leader/Mentor Guide and Group Leader’s Packet materials are very well realized. The take home papers for each lesson are colorful and reinforce the day’s session. Amistad is the original version of “God, Our Father” and “Jesus, Our Savior” en Español.

Friendship materials are used by many Christian denominations, including Roman Catholic, for Christian formation. While there is no material on sacraments, Catholic songs and adaptations are easily added to prepare for Sunday liturgy. There is no Nihil Obstat or Imprimatur.

God, Our Father (GOF) (Hebrew Scriptures)

Seven units of five sessions each tell the story of God’s creation, God’s covenant relationship with His people, and God’s promise to send a Savior. God loves and cares for us too.

Jesus, Our Savior (JOS) (Christian Scriptures)

Six units of five sessions each are devoted to the stories about the life of Jesus from His birth to His Resurrection as told in the four gospels. God’s promise to send a Savior was fulfilled; that good news is still offered to us.

The Spirit, Our Helper (SOH) (Christian Scriptures)

Six units of five sessions each highlight the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church as told in the Acts of the Apostles. The promise of Jesus to send a helper is evident in the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today.

Components

Each unit of Friendship Bible Studies includes four components.

1. Leader/Mentor Guide: A resource guide for both the group leader (for the group time) and mentors (for the one-on-one time). Includes session plans, ideas for opening activities and presenting the Bible stories, reproducible resources, etc.
2. Group Leader’s Packet: A resource for the group leader. Includes all the visual aids needed for the group time.
3. Friendship Youth Take-Home Papers: A resource used by youth friends and mentors in the one-on-one time. Each unit contains four take-home papers and two activity sheets.

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4. **Friendship Adult Take-Home Papers**: A resource used by adult friends and mentors in the one-on-one time. Each unit contains four take-home papers and two activity sheets.