

### THIS Week...


We're featuring our Best Mates – our furry friends, our human friends and God.

 **Today's Bible verses:** Colossians 3:12, Proverbs 12:10 and John 15:9.

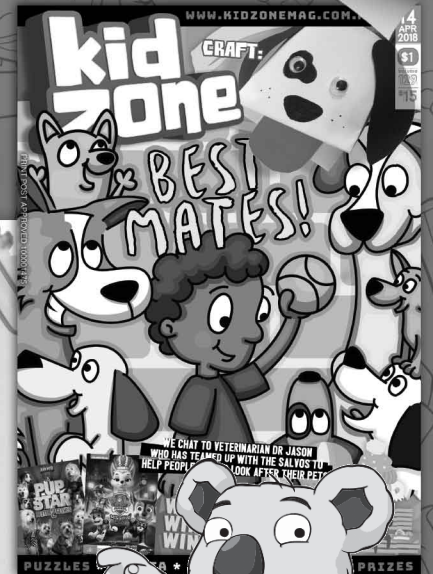
 **Key Words:** Friends

 **Before today's lesson:**

- Make sure you have all the materials you need for the 'Welcome Zone' & 'Fun Zone' activities.
- Gather together all the required ingredients for 'Grub Zone'.
- Have enough Kidzone magazines for every child!
- Print off the 'Beyond the Zone' card.

 When preparing your program, consider each of the 'zones' and how they will best work in your context.

You may like to mix up the order in which you do the 'zones'. You will, however, need to remember the 'Welcome Zone' (obviously) needs to start the session, the 'Zone In' section needs to follow the 'God Zone', and the 'Beyond the Zone' happens at home. Have fun!



#### WELCOMEZONE<sup>tz</sup>

Create a welcoming space for when the children arrive.

- If you can, and there are no children with allergies, arrange for a leader to bring their dog as the kids arrive. Choose a friendly dog!! Ensure that the owner is with the dog at all times and the dog is on a lead. Please be very aware of any children who may have a fear of dogs.
- Borrow books about dogs from the local library and have them available for the kids to explore.
- Have a movie playing in the background such as *The Secret Life of Pets* or *Hotel for Dogs*.
- Collect as many stuffed toy dogs as possible from families within the corps and decorate your space with these toy dogs.

#### GRUBZONE<sup>tz</sup>

Use this time as a snack break and a time to get to know your group.

 **Make Breadstick Bones (on page 10).**

 **Chat about dogs that are part of the kids' families.**

- Chat about tricks that the dogs can do, how the kids look after their dogs, what does their dog like to play etc.

#### FUNZONE<sup>tz</sup>

activity, based on the theme, to do in smaller groups.

 **Make: Easy Paper Pet Puppets**

- During this activity discuss the Commonwealth Games using the information on pages 8 and 9.

 **Read what Oliver Pickle says (on page 11).**

 **Play: Dog Hunt**

- Print out dog bones and write on each bone 'Depend On God'.
- Hide them around the room and give the kids a couple of minutes to find them.

 **Perform: Dog Tricks**

- If you have invited a dog along to the session, ask the owner if the dog can do some tricks.



### Play the quiz (on page 14)

- Then do Professor Pickle's clues (on page 12).
- Tell the dog jokes (on page 15).



### Play Doggy, Doggy Who's Got The Bone?

- Shape a bone out of scrunched up newspaper. Place the kids on the floor in a circle with their hands behind their backs. Choose one child to be the dog who sits in the middle of the circle with their eyes shut. While the kids are shouting out the following poem, ask a leader to hide the bone behind one of the kids. The 'dog' gets three guesses as to which person has the bone. If they guess correctly, the person with the bone is then the dog. If they don't guess they have to be the dog again.

*Doggy, doggy who's got the bone,  
Someone stole it from your home.  
Wake up doggy find your bone.  
When you find it take it home.*



### Read the story 'Best Friends Forever' (on pages 4 and 5).

- You may wish to bring in a stuffed dog as a prop.



### Chat about how Bree and Kyle were looking out for Mr Casey. Not only was Stacey the dog looking out for Mr Casey but Bree and Kyle were also. This is a great story because it shows the love between Mr Casey and his dog Stacey and also between Mr Casey and his friends, Bree and Kyle.



### Check out the Best Mates program in St Kilda (on pages 9 and 9).



### Explain that today has been about dogs and how we should care for them.

- It says in the Bible that we should look after our animals because God made them. In Proverbs 12:10 it says that 'Good people take good care of their animals'. We should always take care of our animals and look after them. Dogs are very loyal friends. They stick by you and will protect you. They are fun to play with and love spending time with you. They deserve to be looked after because they are so loyal and trustworthy.



### Ask: I wonder if you should pat a dog if you see one on the street. (No, not unless the owner says you can.) Some dogs may not like being touched so it is best to get permission from the owner first.



### Explain that we can depend on dogs most of the time – they are known as man's best friend and they truly are. During 'Zone In' we are going to explore about our human friends.



### Explore the questions Samuel asks on page 14, e.g. What do you like most about your friends etc.

- When you have finished asking these questions, ask the following: I wonder if you think Jesus is a good friend. Why?



### Re-ask the questions using the name Jesus.

- What do you like most about Jesus?
- Why do you like the way Jesus listens to you and cares for you?
- Why can you tell Jesus anything, even when you feel bad or sad?
- Why do you trust Jesus because you know He always wants the best for you?



### Read what Samuel says after the questions.



### Pray: Tell the kids that dogs love it when you play fetch the ball with them. Provide a ball and throw it around the group. When each child catches the ball encourage them to thank Jesus for loving them and for being their friend.




**GODZONE**<sup>12</sup>



**ZONEIN**<sup>12</sup>

Break into small groups to go deeper into today's theme.

 We'd love to see some photos of your Kidzone Club members enjoying the activities to include in the Kidzone magazine!

Email a picture of your group to [cheryl.tinker@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:cheryl.tinker@aus.salvationarmy.org)

\*Please get permission from parents before sending photos and include a copy of signed parental consent for Kidzone to print image.

**next  
Week...**

**SPY KIDS**  
MISSION CRITICAL



## BEYOND<sup>the</sup>ZONE<sup>kz</sup>

### Have a go at some of these:

As a family, collect old blankets and towels and donate them to a local lost dogs' home or an animal shelter. This is helping to care for dogs.

You may know of a neighbour who has a dog and who cannot always walk their dog. Talk to your parents and neighbour about helping out by walking their dog on occasions.

Draw a dog bone and write on it DOG – Depend On God. Glue a magnet on the back and place the magnet on the fridge at home as a reminder that we can depend on God at all times.



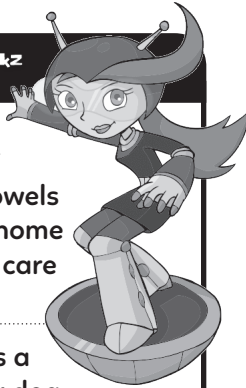
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