

# Discussion Ideas



Choose strategies from the list below to facilitate group discussion.

## **☞ Connecting Activity**

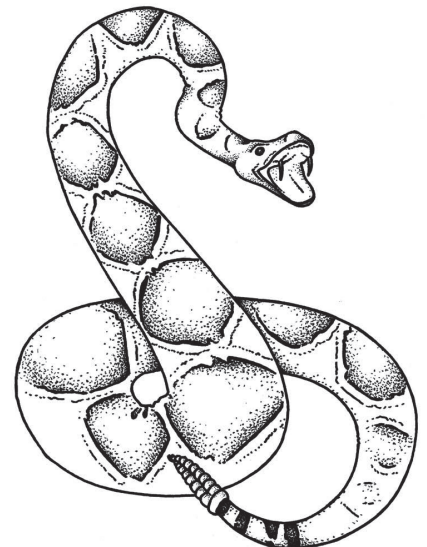
Ask each person in the group to share one word or phrase they would use to describe a good friend.

## **☞ Discussion Questions**

1. True friends are loyal and respectful. Which characters act as true friends in this story? How do they show loyalty and respect?
  - *Grandma supports Raha; Riziki protects Malaika, defends her, listens.*
2. Why do you think Pendo is unable to be a true friend? What would it take for Pendo to become a true friend?
  - *She does not have a loving adult influence; she would need to choose to develop character, learn through a loving relationship.*
3. What tactics does Pendo use to take advantage of Malaika?
  - *Manipulation, guilt.*
4. ►What lesson do you learn from the story of the snake?
  - *Beware of people who are dangerous, manipulative; pay attention to the small voice inside that cautions you.*
5. ►Think of someone you know who is a true friend. What character traits do you see in this person? How does this person show true friendship?
  - *Loyalty, respect, honesty, humility, kindness, trustworthy, etc.*
6. ►Now think about your relationships. What can you do to be a better friend to others?
  - *Be more loyal, respectful, honest, humble, kind, giving, etc.*

## **☞ Personal Growth Activity**

Do you know someone who is a poisonous friend like Pendo? Draw a picture of you and of that person. Add a fence between the two of you; then write ideas on or near the fence about how you can protect yourself in this relationship.



## **☞ Spiritual Application**

Read John 15:12-17. Then ask: What is true friendship according to Jesus?  
How do we become friends of God? What does a friendship with God look like?

## **☞ Prayer Point**

Lead the group in a prayer asking God to protect them from poisonous relationships.  
Pray for strength to stand up to counterfeit friends and wisdom for setting limits.

## **☞ Encouragement**

Remind participants to choose their friendships wisely and to build healthy friendships with loyalty and respect. Encourage them to speak with you or another trusted adult if they feel they are being manipulated in a relationship. Consider reading part of Grandma's Wisdom to close the group time.

### **Grandma's Wisdom**

A lot of people want to have friends, but they aren't willing to develop the character that's needed to be a true friend. Wait and watch, and decide whether they can be trusted. Listen to the still, small voice inside you that tells you someone might be dangerous. It takes courage to choose your friends wisely, and it takes courage to say "no" to bad relationships.

