



PEACE | WEEK 1 | APRIL 3-4, 2021

2nd-3rd Lesson

Alive

Life App: Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

Bible Story: Alive (Easter/God's Big Story) • Colossians 1:20 and John 20:1-18

Bottom Line: God made peace with us.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.

Memory Verse: So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another. Romans 14:19 (NIRV)

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

When Adam and Eve decided that their way was better than God's way and broke God's rule, they changed the relationship between God and His creation. When once everything and everyone could be in the presence of God, now we were at odds with God. God could have done anything He wanted, including wiping us out and starting over. But instead, God decided to make peace with us. Ultimately God did this through His Son, Jesus. When Jesus rose from the dead, He paid the price for everything that was wrong and unfair in this world. Because of Jesus, we can have peace. We don't have to get even. Instead, we can reflect the character of Christ by caring for others and making peace.

We kick off the month with something Paul writes about Jesus in **Colossians 1:20** and **John 20:1-18**. On Easter Sunday, we want to make sure that kids know how they can have a relationship with Jesus. Throughout the entire Bible, we see God's plan to make peace with us. In the second part the Colossians verse, Paul reminds us that it's through what Jesus did on the cross that the world can be right with God again.

Bottom Line: **God made peace with us.** God went to great lengths to fix what was wrong between us and Him. When God looked across humanity and saw the brokenness of our relationship with Him, He proved He cared about us by sending Jesus, His only Son to die— to build a bridge and resolve the conflict that existed. Now, Jesus is alive, and we can have a relationship with God that lasts forever.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

OPENING ACTIVITY:

(Peeps, Toothpicks, Jelly Beans)

What You Do:

- Ask kids to pair up.
- Give each team a marshmallow animal (PEEP), a bowl of jelly beans, and toothpicks.
- Show the kids how to stick toothpicks into the jelly beans to create joints.
- Invite the kids to use their imagination to create a sturdy structure to protect their marshmallow animal such as a house, bridge, tent, or tower by connecting all the joints together with toothpicks.
- Let the kids know that you will drop their structures from a height of six inches to test which structure is the strongest.

What You Say:

“The only way to build a sturdy structure was to connect the toothpicks to the jelly beans to create joints. The structure wasn’t sturdy if the joints weren’t connected! God wants us to be connected to Him and have a strong connection. *[Transition]* Let’s to go Large Group to find out why at Easter we celebrate something God did so we can be connected to Him.”

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins. *The Large Group Leader has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to KidCity. The LGL is relatable and inviting. LGLs can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday, etc. The LGL tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what’s happening.*

LGL: Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today by playing a game, singing some incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God’s Word, the Bible.

But first, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind – We need to be kind with our words and actions to our friends, leaders, and the space that we are using
2. Be Safe – Make wise choices with your actions and words
3. Have Fun – Participate in what we are doing! It's no fun just sitting there...

Now that we know our expectations, let's kick off our day with a game!

THE GREAT DEBATE

If you've been here the past couple of weeks, you should have seen some videos playing on the screen before large group. There have been some "Great Debates" going on. We've seen people argue which is better, sweet candy versus sour, or dogs versus cats, or Chick-fil-a versus McDonald's. Let's watch our final video of the series!

(VIDEO: THE GREAT DEBATE)

Did you notice at the end how they made peace with each other? That's actually what we are going to be talking about all this month!

LARGE GROUP GAME

EGG ROLL

(Tape, Buckets of Plastic Eggs)

LGL:

"This month, we're talking about peace.

(SLIDE: LIFE APP)

"Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument."

(SLIDE: THEME)

"When you make peace with someone, you RECONNECT with them. It's like you build a bridge to get to the other side—because you care more about the other person than you care about getting your way.

"If you think about it, Jesus made peace with US. He died on the cross to make peace between us and God—and THEN He came back to life! That's what we're celebrating today on Easter Sunday. [Storyteller's name] will tell us all about it in a little bit.

"But first, who wants to play a fun Easter game? *(Pause for response.)* Great! This game is called 'Egg Roll.'

“First, will everyone please step back toward the wall? Let’s spread out so that we have an even number of people all the way around the room.

Guide the kids to stand around the perimeter of the room, making sure they’re evenly distributed around all four sections.

“Perfect. Now . . . let’s bring out the eggs!

Worship Leaders enter, carrying the plastic eggs. They pour out the eggs and spread them out so that there are an even number of eggs in each of the four sections. Then they set the empty buckets in front of the stage.

“All right, perfect. If you look around, you can see that there are four different sections of the room. *(Point out the four quadrants.)* You’re a part of whichever square is right in front of you. When I say, ‘Egg Roll,’ you’ll look for any eggs in your square and ROLL them to a different square. *(Demonstrate.)* When the buzzer goes off, the team with the LEAST amount of eggs in their square is the winning team.

“Now, there are a few things you need to remember as you play. You can’t THROW the eggs. They must stay connected to the ground at all times. You can’t KICK the eggs. You can only touch them with your hands. And you must stay in your own square the whole time.

“When you hear this sound . . .

(AUDIO: SILLY BUZZER)

“That means we all immediately put our hands in the air—like this. *(Demonstrate.)*

“Give me an egg-ceptional thumbs up if you understand. *(Pause for response.)* Okay, let’s get started. Three, two, one, EGG ROLL!

(AUDIO: FUN MUSIC)

Set a 60-second timer on your phone.

Comment on the action as the teams compete. Remind everyone of the rules (hands only, etc.). When time runs out . . .

(AUDIO: SILLY BUZZER)

When you hear the buzzer, call out “hands in the air”—and demonstrate by putting your hands up, too. Begin clapping above your head and get to the kids to join in.

(SLIDE: THEME)

“Wow! That was really EGG-citing! You all did a great job, but it looks like THIS section has the fewest eggs of all. Congrats, all of you!

“Now, let’s pick up all the eggs and put them in the buckets on the side of the room. Then we’ll be ready to sing and worship God together.”

Lead the kids in putting the eggs back into the buckets. Worship Leaders can help with this, too. When all of the eggs are put away, move on to Worship.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: THIS LITTLE LIGHT)

BIBLE STORY

(SLIDES: LIFE APP, BOTTOM LINE, MEMORY VERSE, BASIC TRUTH; VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, THE BIG STORY)

(Bible)

LGL: Like I mentioned earlier, all this month we are talking about Peace.

(LIFE APP SLIDE) “Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.”

“It’s important for us to make peace with others. And we have the perfect example of what that looks like . . . because, from the very beginning of everything, God always had a plan to make peace with US. God’s plan came true, and THAT’S why we celebrate Easter. Let’s watch our Bible story today.

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)

It was the greatest news anyone had ever heard, and it’s the reason we celebrate Easter today. Jesus is ALIVE! He came back from the dead. He’s more powerful than sin. He’s more powerful than death. And because of what Jesus did when He died on the cross, we can have peace with God . . . just as God had planned from the very beginning.

(SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE) “God made peace with us.”

Do you know why God sent Jesus? Do you know why He made peace with us? Because He loves us. Everything that happened in history led up to Jesus giving His life for us on the cross. Jesus is the ultimate peacemaker. His death made wrong things right. We can have peace because we know we are forgiven, and that Jesus is alive! Let’s watch a video about what it means to have peace with God.

(VIDEO: THE BIG STORY)

Our Basic Truth today tells us what it means to never be separated from God’s love again...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) “I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.”

“When we accept Jesus as our friend and Savior, then we are a part of God’s family forever. That means that we can be sure that we will always have a place that we belong. I can belong in the best family ever- God’s family!

Direct kids who may want to accept Jesus as their friend and Savior to talk to their small group leader.

PRAYER

LGL: “Friends, let’s pray together.

“Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for wanting peace with us so much that You gave your only Son for us. As we celebrate Easter, help us remember how You made peace when You sent Jesus for us. Help us remember how Jesus died on the cross so that we can have close friendship with You, forever! Thank You for the best news ever—that Jesus is ALIVE. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Life App: Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

Bible Story: Alive (Easter/God’s Big Story) • Colossians 1:20 and John 20:1-18

Bottom Line: God made peace with us.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

Memory Verse: So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another. Romans 14:19 (NIRV)

SINK OR RESCUE

(“Review Questions” Activity Page, Floor Tape, 12 Cups - Optional)

What You Do:

- Create a “bridge” by placing two strips of painter’s tape on the floor.
 - The width of the bridge should be at least seven feet.
 - The length of the bridge can be adjusted to accommodate your environment, number of kids, and need to space out.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Instruct the teams to go to opposite sides of the bridge, stand on the tape, and face each other.
- Ask a kid on Team One a review question. If they get it right, direct them to choose one kid from the opposite team to “sink.”
 - To “sink,” the chosen kid must take a step back and sink into the “water” (the area behind the two tape lines).
- Next, ask a kid on Team Two a review question. If they answer the question correctly, they may either “sink” an opponent’s team member or rescue a “sinking” team member.
- The winning team is the one with the most kids standing on the tape line at the end.
- *Smaller Group Option:*

- *If you don't have enough kids to play this game, split into even enough teams and give each team 6 cups. Instead of kids "sinking" or "being rescued", use the cups as either facing up or facing down.*

What You Say:

“What did your team have to do to ensure winning? You were better off rescuing your teammate rather than sinking someone from the opposite team! Who came to rescue us? (*Jesus*) Why did we need rescuing? (*God is perfect and we are not; our sin breaks the relationship between us and God and puts distance between us.*) The story we heard today is the most important story in the Bible. When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He made it possible for us to have a close relationship with Him that will last forever. When Jesus died on the cross for us, **[Bottom Line] God made peace with us.** Easter is the day we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead and showing that He is stronger than anything—even death. We are thankful to Jesus because He went through so much to rescue us.”

Lead the conversation towards what it means to have Jesus as your friend and Savior. Tell them how you came to trust Jesus as your friend and Savior. Remember, kids learn best through stories. Don't be afraid to tell them yours! If you have a kid accept Jesus as their friend and Savior, GREAT! Be sure to bring the kid's parents and your coach into the conversation.

BUILD A BRIDGE

(Plastic Eggs, Newspaper Sheets [Or Thin Paper], Permanent Marker, 2 Sturdy Cups, String, Scissors, Pebbles)

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to pair up.
- Give each pair newspaper, string, an egg, a “God” cup, and a “Me” cup.
- Instruct the teams to lay their egg on the floor.
- Guide them to place the “God” cup on one side of the egg and the “Me” cup on the other side of the egg.
- Challenge the teams to build a sturdy bridge between the cups, over the egg, with the supplies provided. Teams can adjust the placement of the cups if needed.
- Let the kids know that you will test the strength of their bridges in a few minutes.
- Test the bridges by adding pebbles, one at a time, until the bridge collapses and hits the egg.
- The bridge that holds the most pebbles before collapsing, wins.

NOTE: Rolled up newspaper tied with string and laid across the two cups makes the sturdiest bridge.

What You Say:

“Building a sturdy bridge is hard work! You guys did a great job. You built a bridge between the ‘God’ cup and the ‘Me’ cup because there was distance between them. Our sin separates us from God, putting distance between Him and us. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price for our sin. He made a bridge between us and God. His death means that our sins are paid for and we can have a friendship with God that will last forever. Remember **[Basic Truth] I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.** This is how **[Bottom Line] God made peace with us!**”

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- How did God make peace with us?
- Why does Easter matter? Why do we celebrate Easter?
- What changed for us when Jesus died?
- What is it important that the tomb was empty, that Jesus didn't "stay dead"?

PRAY AND DISMISS

(2nd/3rd GodTime Card - 1 per kid)

What You Say:

"God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins and build a bridge between You and us. We are so grateful that You've always had a plan to make a way for us to have a relationship with You and experience peace. Help us grow in our relationship with You every day. As we go home and celebrate Easter, remind us that the reason we celebrate is because *[Bottom Line]* God made peace with us."

Pass out the GodTime Cards to each kid. If there's spare time, encourage kids to start looking over their GodTime card and point out how it relates to today's lesson.