



PEACE | WEEK 4 | APRIL 24-25, 2021

2nd-3rd Lesson

The Peacemaker

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

Bible Story: The Peacemaker (Abigail Intervenes) • 1 Samuel 25:1-35

Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.

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 finish the month in **1 Samuel 25:1-35**, where we find a story about a woman named Abigail, but it starts with King David. He was furious with a man who mistreated his soldiers. He decided to get revenge, until the man's wife, Abigail, intercepts him with gifts to make peace and apologizes. Her peacemaking skills stopped something that could have been horrible. Even though she was not responsible for her husband's offense, she realized she could play a role in making peace.

Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by being part of the solution. Peace is often about helping stop an argument before it can escalate into something worse. Acting as a peacemaker between others will take time and energy, but God can give us the strength to help others make peace. Sometimes our outside perspective is what someone might need to see a peaceful solution.

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:

(Paper Plates, Blindfolds, Masking Tape)

What You Do:

- Create a bridge by taping two parallel lines on the floor, about three feet apart.
 - The length of the lines can be from 10 to 20 feet, depending on your preferences and amount of time for the activity.
- Place the paper plates in random spots between the two tapelines. This is your “minefield,” and the plates are the “mines.”
- Ask the kids to pair up and stand on the left side of the bridge.
- Tell the kids that each team will take turns walking across the bridge.
- One of the kids will wear a blindfold while the other kids guide them with verbal cues to the other side of the bridge.
- If the blindfolded kid steps on a paper plate mine or over/off the bridge, the team is out.
- Ask the kids to switch places after round one.

What You Say:

“You did a great job listening and communicating to keep each other safe and out of harm’s way! **[Transition]** Let’s go to Large Group to hear about someone who did the same thing to keep everyone safe and out of harm’s way. I can’t wait for you to hear all about it.”

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!

LARGE GROUP GAME UNDER CONSTRUCTION

(Bucket with a Different Type of Building Material Per Small Group, Mini-Figure)

LGL: "Hello, everyone! My name is [your name], and I'm pumped to see you! This whole month we've been working on something that will change the way we speak and act with other people. We're doing whatever we can to make 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, it's like you built a bridge—from your side to theirs. *(Demonstrate with your hands.)* You're not just focused on having things YOUR way. You're showing the other person that they're important and valuable. You choose to **[Basic Truth]** treat them the way YOU want to be treated.

"Today, we'll hear a story about an amazing woman named Abigail. She was pretty creative. And I know all of YOU are pretty creative, too. I know you're good at building things . . . and you're good at making peace, too. Let's put that creativity to work with a super-fun game!

Give a bucket of supplies to each small group. Each bucket should have a different type of building material (blocks, LEGO® bricks, Lincoln Logs®, craft sticks, tape, marshmallows, pasta noodles, etc.).

"Each group has a bucket of building supplies. You'll have three minutes to build a bridge with your supplies. Your only goal is to make sure it can hold the weight of this guy. *(Hold up the mini figure.)* When time is up, I'll bring him around to try out each bridge. Everybody ready? *(Pause.)* Let's go!

(AUDIO: FUN MUSIC)

*Set a timer on your phone for three minutes.
Provide encouraging commentary as the groups build their
bridges. When time is up, go from group to group and
stand the mini figure on each bridge to test its strength.*

“That was really great! I knew you could do it. You are expert bridge builders AND expert peacemakers. Let’s put all those supplies back in the buckets. Then, let’s get ready to jump and sing as we worship God together.”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: BURN, WAVEWALKER)

BIBLE STORY

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

LGL: Let’s look at our definition for the Life App, Peace again.

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

“When you make peace with someone, it’s like you’ve built a bridge – from your side to theirs. Instead of insisting to get your way all of the time, you look for ways to show the other person that they’re important and valuable by treating them the way that you want to be treated. Sometimes that means that you have to use the creativity that God gave you to come up with a peaceful solution. Let’s watch our video about a courageous and creative woman named Abigail who was a peacemaker.

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)

“It’s pretty amazing how Abigail took the blame for Nabal. She knew that it was important for her to apologize so that David wouldn’t be mad anymore. She even thought to bring some gifts she thought David would like. *(Hold up the raisins.)* She knew that was the only way to avoid a huge battle!

“You and I can be like Abigail. We can use our creativity to make peace. When we see a problem, we can be part of the solution. When we see something wrong, we can help to make it right.

“Let’s remember this...

(SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE) “You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.”

“It’s so cool how God can use US to help make peace between other people. Think about what it must have been like for Abigail. She could have easily stood back and watched things get worse

between David and Nabal. But she chose to step in and make peace! She saw a big problem, and she chose to be part of the solution.

“God can help us do that, too. We know that He’s always with us, and that He can give us the strength we need as we work to make things right. After all, that’s what God does—He makes things right! He loved us so much that He sent Jesus FOR us, so we could have a relationship with Him that will last forever. We can follow His example and help find a solution to what’s wrong. Remember...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.

When we accept Jesus as our Friend and Savior, we have the light of Christ (Jesus) in us shining through a world that’s darkened by sin. When we, with God’s help, do the big thing of helping bring peace in a situation that needs it, we are showing others around us God’s love.

Let’s say our verse together before we pray.

MEMORY VERSE

(SLIDE: 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)*

Let’s pray together.

PRAYER

“Dear God, thank You for giving Abigail the courage to step into a difficult situation. She was wise and creative enough to find a way to make things better! There are problems around us that can seem almost impossible to fix. But with Your help, we know we can be a part of the solution. Please help us look for opportunities to step in and make peace. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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REACT OR RESPOND

("Scenario" Activity Page)

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Assign one team to be "Team React" and the other team to be "Team Respond."
- Unpack what "react" and "respond" mean and how they are different.
 - Reacting usually involves acting without thinking.
 - Taking time to respond gives your mind time to think about how to be part of the solution.
- Pause after sharing each scenario to give the teams time to brainstorm.
 - Instruct "Team React" to brainstorm one idea on how the scenario could be handled poorly and end in a bad argument or fight.
 - Instruct "Team Respond" to brainstorm one solution on how the scenario could be handled well and lead to a peaceful ending.
- Give each team a chance to share their idea before sharing the next scenario.
- Switch teams midway through sharing scenarios to give everyone a chance to experience being part of a solution, i.e., Team Respond.

What You Say:

"In all of these scenarios, you had a choice. You could make things worse by reacting or making a hasty decision, which would ultimately end in a bad fight or argument. Or you could be part of the solution to make sure the situation doesn't turn into an argument or fight. Can you think of some ways you can be part of a solution? (*Pause for responses.*) Those are great thoughts! Maybe you can help others see a different perspective so they can find common ground, or you can help brainstorm solutions that they might not have considered. Maybe you can muster up the courage to ask someone who is reacting to cool off.

"We face situations every day where we can choose to react or respond. We have the power to either make things worse or better! God wants each one of us to be like Abigail in today's story. [*Bottom Line*] You can show you care about others by being part of the solution."

[*Make it Personal*] (*Share a time when you had a conflict with someone and instead of wasting energy on proving you were right, you chose to find a solution that would satisfy everyone. Maybe you made a compromise or just apologized. Whatever the case, help kids see the solution part of your example.*)

MEMORY VERSE TOSS

(Bible, Memory Verse Poster, Ball)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to apply hand sanitizer.
- Look up the memory verse in the Bible. Review the memory verse together. Read it through a couple of times.
- Lead kids to sit in a circle and pass the ball while they say the verse, one word with each pass. The catch is, they can pass it to *anyone* in the circle (emphasize that they need to toss it *gently*). Go until the verse is said in its entirety,
 - If needed, place the Memory Verse Poster in the middle of the group.

What You Say:

“Romans 14:19 tells us to do all we can to live in peace. How did Abigail do all that she could to live in peace? (*She apologized for Nabal being mean. She was kind to David and his men.*) How can YOU do all you can to live in peace? (*Give kids time to think and answer. If they're stuck for ideas, ask prompting questions such as: Could you help two friends share? Could you encourage someone to be kind? Could you get help from an adult when you see someone bullied?*) The thing to remember today is that **[Bottom Line] you can show you care about others by being part of the solution.** And when you do that, you're doing just what Romans 14:19 says. You're doing all you can to live in peace!”

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- Why do Jesus followers consider Jesus to be the ultimate peacemaker?
- What are some reasons that we avoid being peacemakers in difficult situations?
- What are some ways we can be a peacemaker? (*If necessary, provide a scenario: If someone is giving you the silent treatment, what could you do to be a peacemaker? What if you are watching a show and your older brother walks in and switches what you're watching - what could you do to be a peacemaker?*)

PRAY AND DISMISS

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

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for reminding us to do all we can to live in peace. We need Your help to work on (*pause and ask kids to silently insert the trait they feel they need to develop*). Help us do everything we can this week to show we care about others by being part of the solution, even if that means that we have to give up something. We want to be peacemakers. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”

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.