



PEACE | WEEK 1 | APRIL 3-4, 2021

4th-5th 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

Key Question: Why does Easter matter?

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.

Key Question: Why does Easter matter? When you look around at the bunnies and flowers and chocolate eggs, you can understand why it might be hard for kids to grasp the importance of Easter. We start with this question, to engage kids in a discussion about Jesus and how they can have a relationship with Him. We will celebrate that Jesus is alive!

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.

HOST: 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...

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! This month, we're talking about peace.

(SLIDE: LIFE APP)

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

LARGE GROUP GAME

A BRIDGE TOO FAR

(Long Board, 2 Chairs, Plastic Eggs, Prize)

LGL: "But before we get into that today, Happy Easter! Easter is the day we set aside to celebrate that Jesus is alive! Let's kick off the month of April right!"

LGL walks over to the board bridge.

"As you can see here, we have a bridge. Not too fancy. The bridge is just a nice wide board. Today's game is all about this bridge. Anyone want to come up and play?"

LGL chooses 6-8 volunteers and introduces them to the rest of the room.

“Thanks for playing! Okay, who thinks they could roll something across this bridge from one side to the other? Really? You’re confident that you could make it all the way? *(Pause for responses.)* “What if what you were rolling was . . . *(take out plastic Easter eggs)* THESE?” “Each of you will get two attempts to roll an egg across the bridge. If your egg falls off the side, I will mark where it falls off just in case nobody makes it. The furthest egg wins. Get it? Alright let’s play!”

(AUDIO: FUN MUSIC)

Allow each volunteer two rolls from one end to the other. Mark where the furthest of the two eggs fell off. If time allows, call up more volunteers. Award the longest roll a prize.

“*(After the game)* Well, let’s keep this morning ROLLING! Get it? Okay, let’s stand up and worship Jesus together!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: THIS LITTLE LIGHT)

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(SLIDE: LIFE APP, BRIDGE SLIDES)

(No Supplies)

LGL: “Hey, everybody! Great to see you. I’m so excited to begin another month together and to be able to celebrate Easter together. That was fun watching you try to get those eggs across the bridge. That was a pretty far distance for an egg. But check out some of these real-life bridges.”

(SLIDE: PICTURE OF GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE IN CALIFORNIA)

“What is this? *(Pause for responses.)* Yep. The Golden Gate Bridge. Pretty iconic. Here’s another one that you might recognize.”

(SLIDE: PICTURE OF TOWER BRIDGE IN LONDON)

“Anyone know that one? *(Pause for responses—hint if needed)* Not the London Bridge, though London is where you can visit it. That bridge is actually the Tower Bridge in England—a pretty famous one also.”

“Those are some cool bridges, right? Think for a moment about these bridges. What do they all have in common? *(Pause for a few responses.)* Yes. They connect one side to the other. One state to another, one side of the river to the other side, and so on.”

“At this point, you might be asking yourself. What is going on here? I thought this was Easter. Why are we looking all of these bridges? Where are the painted Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies? What does any of this have to do with why I’m dressed up and going to my relative’s house for a fancy lunch today? I mean, sure the bridges are cool, I guess, but what do bridges and connecting have to do with Easter?”



“Of course, you may not be asking yourself any of those questions, and that’s fine, too. Today is an incredibly special day to be here at church to celebrate Easter. And believe it or not, Easter and bridges have more in common than you might think. In order to find out why, we need to head to the Bible. Remember, the Bible includes all sorts of stories and ideas written by people who experienced God and were inspired to write them down for us to experience God, too. Let’s watch our story today.

BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: SO & SO SHOW; SLIDES: KEY QUESTION, BASIC TRUTH, THE BIG STORY)

(VIDEO: THE SO & SO SHOW)

Because of Jesus, we can live in peace! We can trust that God has made a way for us to come back to Him. We have seen that God has been working throughout history to bring all people back to Himself, and Jesus is the ultimate way for us to have lasting peace with God. Because God gave Jesus, we can trust Him. And because Jesus rose again from the dead, we know that truly He has the power to save us! Check out this video about what it means to accept Jesus as your friend and Savior...

(VIDEO: THE BIG STORY)

“Jesus is the bridge, the One who reconnects us back to God. And hopefully, the next time you see a bridge—on a road trip or even on a walk across town—you’ll remember how much God loves you and sent Jesus to make it good between you and God.

“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.

“As you head to small groups, think about this question:

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) “Why does Easter matter?”

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

Key Question: Why does Easter matter?

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.

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

(“Memory Verse Cards” Activity Page – 1 per group, Balloons, Bibles)

What You Do:

- Hand out Bibles and look up this month’s memory verse, Romans 14:19.
 - **Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from Romans. Ask kids to tell you whether that’s in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*New*) So we know it’s toward the back of the Bible. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 14. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verses 19 in chapter 14.
- Give each kid a stack of “Memory Verse Cards.”
- Ask kids to shuffle their cards and set them in a stack face down.
- Give each kid a balloon.
- Instruct kids to blow up their balloons and tie them.
- Lead kids to race to be the first one to put their cards in the correct order of the verse.
 - When you say, “GO,” kids bop their balloons in the air and flip over one “Memory Verse Cards” from their deck.
 - Before touching another card or moving a card to its proper place, kids must first bop their balloon up in the air again.
 - As kids flip their cards one at a time, they put them in the correct order of the memory verse.
 - If anyone’s balloon touches the ground, that kid has to start over. (Or, to make it a little bit easier, they return one card to the bottom of their stack.)
- After a winner is declared, talk about and unpack the verse.
- Ask:
 - What does it mean to build someone up?
 - What are ways we can build up one another?
 - If we focus on building up one another, how can that help us to live in peace?
 - How does knowing what Jesus did for us help us to live in peace? How does knowing what Jesus did for us build us up?

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

(Preteen GodTime Card - 1 per kid)

What You Say:

“God, we know that You are always with us, but when things get tough and our patience is tested, we can forget that You’re there. When we’re waiting for *(insert a few of the things the kids named)*, help us remember that You are with us and will help us have patience. Thank You, God, for being with us and never leaving us. We love You. In Jesus’ name we pray, 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.