



PEACE | WEEK 4 | APRIL 24-25, 2021

4th-5th 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

Key Question: What are ways you can be a peacemaker?

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.

Key Question: **What are ways you can be a peacemaker?** It's one thing to say that peace is important, it's another thing to actively work towards making peace. As kids go about their day, we hope they stop, look around, and see how they can help make peace between people they know who are experiencing an argument.

We finish the month in **1 Samuel 25:1-35**, where we find a story about 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 kid 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.

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...

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

LARGE GROUP GAME OVERPASS

(Tape, 2 Buckets, Ping Pong Balls, 6 Pipes)

LGL: “Hey everyone! Can you believe it is the end of April?! But we can still have fun around here! It's time for our last bridge challenge, and this one may be the toughest one yet. I need two teams of three volunteers who think they have some really steady hands.”

Choose six volunteers.

“Okay, someone remind me, what is the point of a bridge? *(Pause for responses.)* Right, bridges help us get from one place to another, usually over some sort of obstacle. Well, we need to get these ping pong balls from this line ALL the way over to this bucket *(Show tape line across the room.)* without touching the ground. And here is your bridge.”

Holds up a single pipe.

“Hmmm . . . not quite gonna make it. But *(hands a pipe to each of the volunteers)* together this should work. Each team of three will start on this end, and *(choose team leaders)* will put the ping pong ball in the end of your pipe. You need to then roll it into the next person's pipe. As soon as it is out of the first pipe, RUN to the end of the line and connect your pipe. Hopefully by leapfrogging, you will be able to get a ping pong ball safely from one end of the room to the other. If it drops, you have to go back. Let's see who can get the most ping pong balls from one side to the other in 60 seconds. Got it? Let's do it! On your mark, get set, go!”

(VIDEO: 60 SECOND COUNTDOWN)

(AUDIO: FUN MUSIC)

When the 60 seconds are up, count the number of ping pong balls for each team. Declare a winner. Optional: If time allows, run this with a new set of volunteers.

“That was pretty amazing! Nice job, everyone. Now, let’s stand up and worship God together!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: BURN, WAVEWALKER)

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(SLIDE: LIFE APP)

(No Supplies)

We’ve had such a great month together! We’ve already learned so much about peace. Remember, we are defining peace as...

(SLIDE: LIFE APP) “Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.”

Let’s dive in to one more lesson this month.

“Think about this for a moment. Most of us have had difficult moments in our relationships when we’re in a disagreement with a friend or family member. When that has happened, have you ever had another friend or family member step in the middle and help you and the other person make things right? In other words, had someone who acted like a bridge? Yeah? Who was that person? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“Yes, exactly. Other friends, a parent, or sibling stepped into our mess and helped us reconnect with the other person we argued with.

“Even if you haven’t yet, we will all face a moment in our lives when we’re at odds with someone we know, maybe even someone we care about. Maybe we’ll even see people we know fighting with each other, and we’ll wonder how to respond. Do we step in and try to help? Do we get another adult to help us? Do we allow the relationship to end? When it comes to an argument, sometimes there are more questions than answers. That’s just one of the reasons why I’m so thankful we have the Bible. I’m so thankful that people wrote down their experiences when God helped them through difficult times. Let’s watch our video today.”

BIBLE STORY

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

(VIDEO: THE SO & SO SHOW)

“It’s interesting to think about what might have happened in this story if Abigail hadn’t intervened. I mean, David was pretty upset about the way he and his men were treated, and he was prepared to make it right. And we know Nabal wasn’t changing his mind! I think it is pretty safe to say this was NOT going to end well. But Abigail did something really difficult. She came between two

parties who were divided and found a way to make peace. She became the bridge that brought together two people who were separated. This is no small thing.”

“Have you ever caught on to some tension flaring up between a couple of your friends? In that moment, you have all sorts of choices to make. You can say things to splash gasoline on what is sparking like, ‘Oh yeah, they ALWAYS act like that!’ or ‘But did you hear when they said THIS?’ Soon enough, those sparks are a full-blown fire. Or instead, you could be the water that helps to extinguish the sparks, like ‘Are you sure that’s what they said?’ or ‘What if we talk about it together?’”

“But maybe it has nothing to do with your friends, like this story. Maybe you have someone in your own life that’s genuinely not a nice person to you or to your friends or your siblings. We may need to start thinking about the safe ways that you can help to build a bridge and bring peace. Think about this question...

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) “What are ways you can be a peacemaker?”

“In other words, think about some of the relationships that are in your life right now that may be a bit divided. They need a bridge to get from one side to the other. Maybe God is nudging you to become that bridge for them. God might also help you figure out which adult could help become a bridge for them. There are all sorts of ways to become a peacemaker. Fighting for peace instead just, well...fighting, is a BIG thing. You don’t have to do it alone. Our Basic Truth today reminds us of that...

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

Remember, we can always ask for the wisdom of the ultimate peacemaker - the one who made peace between us and God - Jesus. He is faithful to help us when we need it.

Let’s read our verse together one last time.

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.)

PEACEMAKER

(“Verse Cards” - 1 Set Per Group, Butcher Paper or 11x17 Paper, Markers)

What You Do:

- Gather kids together around a large piece of butcher paper.
- Write at the top of the paper, “I can be a peacemaker and part of the solution by . . .”
- Shuffle the “Verse Cards” and fan them out.
- Instruct kids to pick a card.
- Ask kids to read their “Verse Card” and underline the words that could be used to describe a peacemaker.
- Using their verse to guide them, ask kids to complete the sentence, “I can be a peacemaker and part of the solution by . . .”
- Instruct kids to write their answers on the butcher paper.
- If time allows, let kids come up with multiple ways to finish the sentence.
- Discuss the sentences as a group. Use the questions below to spark conversation:
 - How can being slow to speak help diffuse a fight?
 - What does it look like to be gentle? And how can gentleness be a solution to bring peace? Would you describe Jesus as gentle? Why or why not?
 - What does it mean to not be proud? (*direct the kid who has the Romans 12:16 card to read it aloud.*)
 - How can being willing to forgive help you make peace with others?
 - Do you think memorizing Bible verses can help you to be a peacemaker? Why or why not?

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

(Preteen 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.

