



PEACE | WEEK 1 | APRIL 3-4, 2021

K-1 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:

(Paper or Paper Plates, Floor Tape - Optional)

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a variation of “The Floor Is Lava!”
- Set the “stepping stones” in a path on the floor, spaced two to three feet apart. Tape down if needed
- Guide kids to line up at one end of your path.
- Model how to navigate the course, stepping **ONLY** on the “stones” not on the floor because it’s “lava!”
- Direct kids to take turns navigating the path.
- If time allows, change the positions of the “stones” and let kids take on a new challenge.

What You Say:

“You guys did a great job avoiding the lava and getting to the other side! *[Transition]* In Large Group, we’ll hear how God came to US so that WE can go to HIM! Let’s go learn more.”

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, 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...

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

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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)

BRIDGE THE GAP

(2 Pool Noodles, 5 Pieces of Paper with J-E-S-U-S on each)

What You Do:

- Set the pool noodles on the floor, parallel and about a foot apart.
- Guide kids to line up along one side, spaced out from each other.
- Lead kids to take turns jumping over the noodles.
- Progressively add challenge by increasing the distance between the noodles.
- When it becomes difficult for the kids to successfully jump over both noodles, set them as far apart as you can so kids cannot jump over them but close enough that you can place the JESUS letters between them like a bridge (some gaps are ok)
- Ask: Could you jump THIS far by yourself? You would need something—or someone—to help you, wouldn’t you?
- Use the conversation below to “bring it home.”

What You Say:

“Just like there’s NO WAY that we can jump from here (*stand by the kids*) all the way to here (*stand on the other side of the faraway noodle*), there’s NO WAY that we can have peace with God without Someone to help us. That Someone is JESUS! (*Lay out the pieces of paper between the noodles so they spell out JESUS. Be sure that they are spaced in a way that kids can walk on them and safely get to the faraway noodle*) [**Bottom Line**] God made peace with us by sending His Son, Jesus. Jesus is for EVERYONE. And when we choose to believe in Jesus and trust in Him to be our friend and Savior, we can have peace with God. (*Lead kids to walk over the paper to you.*)

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.

EGG RACE

(Bible, Memory Verse Poster, 20 Plastic Eggs Prestuffed with "Egg Race" Activity Page Slips - 2 copies, 2 Easter Baskets - Optional)

What You Do:

- Look up and read Romans 14:19 together.

Finding verses with kindergarteners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to *Psalms* at the top of the page as you say "Psalms." Then guide children to find the big number 27 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 27 for the little 14; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under "Old Testament." You can help by telling them that Psalms starts with the letters P-S. When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 7. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 27.

- Recite the verse a few times out loud as a group. Use the Memory Verse Poster so everyone can follow along.
 - *Use your finger to point to each word as you read it aloud. This will help your beginner readers to follow along.*
- Split into two teams (*Or work together as a team if you have a smaller group to see how fast you can complete the activity*) and tell the kids that they will compete to search for and put in order the verse. The verse slips are hidden within the plastic eggs.
- Kids will do a relay-style race. Put the kids in a line with a basket full of their 10 easter eggs at one end. When you say GO, the first kid in the line will grab an egg, spin once, and pass it to the person behind them, who then will spin once and pass it on. When the egg gets to the last person in line, they will spin and place it on the ground next to them. Once all eggs are gathered the kids will work together to open the eggs and put the verse in order. First team to put the verse in order and read it out loud, wins!

What You Say:

"How did God make peace with us? (*He sent Jesus.*) Yes! **[Bottom Line] God made peace with us** when He sent His own Son, Jesus, to live on Earth, show us how to live, die on the cross, and come back to life. Because of Jesus, we can have peace with God and live forever with Him!

"And since **[Bottom Line] God made peace with us**, He wants us to make peace with others. Because when we do that, we show others that we love them and that God loves them, too. So remember that **[Bottom Line] God made peace with us**. And how did God make peace with us? (*He sent Jesus.*) Yes! He made peace with us through JESUS!"

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

(K/1st GodTime Card, Crayons or Markers)

What You Do:

- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

What You Say:

"The important thing to remember today is *[Bottom Line]* **God made peace with us.** How did God make peace with us? (*He sent Jesus.*) Yes! God made peace with us when He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to live on Earth, die on the cross, and come back to life (*make a "wow" face*) so that our sins can be forgiven! And when we ask Jesus to forgive us, He will! Jesus is the BEST PEACEMAKER EVER!

"It's okay if you don't understand everything now. If you have questions, you can talk to me, another leader, your mom or dad, or someone you know who follows Jesus. We'll be happy to help you. Let's pray.

"Dear God, thank You SO much for sending Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that Jesus is more powerful than sin and more powerful than death. Thank You that because of Jesus, we can have peace with You, just like You always wanted. We love You SO much, God. Thank You! Amen."

Pass out the GodTime card to each kid. If there's spare time, the kids can start coloring their GodTime Card.