



PEACE | WEEK 1 | APRIL 3-4, 2021

## Virtual 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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)

## 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.

## SMALL GROUP

### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY AND DISCUSSION

(Building Supplies, Paper, Markers)

#### What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you choose, consider using an icebreaker question to get kids talking.
- Practice saying the memory verse together.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled (Video found at [theparenthub.net](http://theparenthub.net)).

#### Activity:

##### What You Do:

- Guide kids to build a bridge structure using the materials they have.
  - They can place two plastic cups upside down and connect them with popsicle sticks.
  - Or they could build two small towers out of marshmallows and toothpicks, and then connect the two towers.
  - They could use LEGO bricks to construct two towers and then build a bridge between them.
- Encourage them to get creative and to build their bridges directly in front of their devices so everyone can see each other's work!
- Give kids a "two- or three-minute warning" before it's time for them to stop working.
- Allow them a few moments to share their ideas and congratulate each other on their hard work.
- Instruct kids to write "People" on a small piece of paper and "God" on another.
- Ask them to tape (or attach in some way) the "People" sign to one side/tower of the bridge and attach the "God" sign to the other side.
- Then engage the group in a discussion about Easter and today's story.

##### What You Say:

- "What is it called when we disobey God and decide not to listen to Him? (*sin*) So the people sinned and their sin separated them from God because God is perfect."
- *Instruct kids to write "Sin" on a small piece of paper and place it on the bridge, between the towers labeled "People" and "God."*
- "But God loved people so much He did not want them to be separated from Him, so He had a plan, a plan to rescue people from their sin. God sent Jesus to earth as part of His rescue plan."
- *Read Colossians 1:20.*
- *Instruct kids to write "God made peace" and "Colossians 1:20" (just the verse reference) on another piece of paper.*
- "Jesus died on a cross. But this was all part of God's Rescue Plan. Jesus' death paid the price for our sin and created a bridge so we wouldn't be separated from God, and because of Jesus, we can be with God now and forever."
- *Instruct kids to use the "God made peace" paper to cover the word "sin" and the "Colossians 1:20" paper to create a bridge between "God" and "People."*

- “Jesus followed God’s Rescue Plan by dying on the cross so our sins are forgiven. But Jesus’ death on the cross is only part of the Easter story. Jesus continued to follow God’s Rescue Plan by coming back to life to show us He is more powerful than anything; more powerful than sin, more powerful than death. Because of Jesus we have Easter, and we can have peace knowing we are forgiven, knowing Jesus is alive. When we believe this, we know we can have a relationship with Him now and forever.”
- *If your group is still engaged in the conversation and has some questions, allow time for further discussion. If not, you can go ahead and wrap up and close in prayer. Either way, make sure kids know how to get in touch with you and that you’re always available to answer their questions, no matter how “out there” or “simple” they may be!*

*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 coordinator into the conversation.*

Close your group in prayer:

“God, You alone created everything! Every plant, animal, and star! And you created US in Your image! You knew we would forget Your promises and try to do things our own way. But God, You are faithful, and You always keep Your promises. You love us so much that since the beginning of time You had a Rescue Plan for us. God, we are so grateful for Jesus, that He has power over sin and power over death and because of Him, we can have a relationship with You now and forever! Thank You for making a way for us to be with You. In Jesus’ name we pray! Amen.”