



PEACE | WEEK 1 | MARCH 3, 2024

Elementary Lesson

Whenever, Wherever

Monthly Virtue: Peace—proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

Bible Story: Whenever, Wherever (Live in Peace with Everyone) • Romans 12:18

Key Question: Why is it important to make peace?

Basic Truth: I am made by God to reflect His Image.

Memory Verse: If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can. Romans 12:18 (NirV)

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God’s heart. Even though people chose to break their relationship with God, God made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. And because we reflect God’s image, making peace with others should be a priority for us as well. That’s why we’re taking the first three weeks of March to highlight some passages and stories about peace to help kids understand more about how they can be peacemakers in their world.

Key Question: Why is it important to make peace? Preteens are just becoming aware of the complexities of getting along with others. They may wonder if the work it takes to make peace with their friends, classmates, or teammates is worth it. We hope that talking through the importance of peace will be a great start in helping them see how they can choose peace in their relationships with others.

In week one, we look at something Paul wrote in Romans 12:18: “If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can.” This is a big challenge! Do as much as you can to live in peace . . . with everyone! Paul was stressing how important it is for us to do everything in our power to fix what is broken—and make connections with the people around us. After all, this is what God did for us through Jesus.

Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

Morning Flow

- Doors Open 9:15/11:00
- Large Group Starts 9:35/11:20
- Small Group Starts 10:05/11:50

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

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, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: PJ DAY) It’s almost that time of year when we have to set our clocks forward an hour. Next week we will have PJ Day in KidCity! Because you have to wake up a whole hour earlier, why bother putting on real clothes? Go ahead and wear your PJs to church!

(SLIDE: BAPTISM) (Said on the fourth weekend of the month only) “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? (Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap). Awesome!”

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS) “Now, 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
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

STICKY STATIC SPARKS

(2 Balloons, Floor Tape, 1 Cone)

Welcome to a brand-new month here at KidCity! I don’t know about you, but I love science. Learning about this amazing world God created, stars and planets, animals, electricity, doesn’t matter—I’m all in if I can geek out.

“There are always connections from science to Scripture, too! Just like there’s power in that light socket over there, there’s power in finding the peace of God. It’s time to get ‘connected’ as we ‘switch on’ the power of peace! Speaking of Peace...that’s what we are talking about all this month.

(SLIDE: VIRTUE) Peace—proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

“Our monthly verse talks all about it. Check it out...

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE) “If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can. Romans 12:18 (NirV)

“It’s always a good reminder to live in peace! Ok, let’s play a game. I’ve got one that should get some of you a bit charged up. I need eight people . . . who’s feeling sparky?”

(SLIDE: STICKY STATIC SPARKS)
(SLIDES: FUN MUSIC)

HOW TO PLAY:

- EXPLAIN THE GAME: This is a relay-style game with 2 teams of 4 competing against each other. Each team will get a balloon and will have to use static electricity –no hands!– to carry the balloon from the start to finish line.
 - For all ages, you will need to demonstrate how to rub the balloon on your hair, shirt, carpet, etc. to generate a static charge.
- SHOW THEM THE ROUTE: Have teams line up behind the ‘start/finish’ line and place a cone a good distance away. Kids will have to get the balloon to stick to them and then run around the cone and back. Then they will hand the balloon to the next person in line. If the balloon drops, they must freeze, get the balloon to stick again, and continue running.
- HANDS: To avoid the temptation of holding the balloon with their hands – have players hold their hands above their heads while the balloon is stuck to them.
- PLAY: First team to have every kid cross the finish line wins!

“That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)
(VIDEO: GOD IS ON THE MOVE, RIVER)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)
(No supplies)

I have a question. Are there people in your lives who you feel connected to? Like, more so than others? Maybe a great friend or you’re close with your siblings or parents?

“Are there some people you have a hard time connecting with? Why do you think that is?”

“When we read the Bible, we discover God has a plan that includes working to be at peace with everyone and get along with them . . . but that’s not always super easy, is it? We know what we should do, but we don’t always know how to do it. So, what should we do about that?”

Well, thankfully, when we read something important in the Bible that we know we should put into practice, the writers of the Bible don’t leave us hanging. They also give us some practical ways to live them out and trust God in the process. Let’s jump in.

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)

It would be nice to say that we always live in peace with everyone, all the time, and nothing ever goes wrong. Unfortunately, we’re all people. And people are emotional. We argue. We disagree. We fight. Our peace gets broken. Sometimes it’s our fault, and sometimes it is not.



“Regardless, we can always ask ourselves a simple question. What’s possible right now for me to do? How can I help make peace? Am I making it better or making it worse? For example, if someone is saying nasty things to us or about us, it won’t make peace if we try to one-up them and say something nasty right back. In that moment, we have to take a step back, breathe, and ask, ‘What is it possible for me to do right now?’ Maybe I need to go talk to an adult. Maybe I need some time alone with my thoughts. Maybe I need to go for a walk and get some air.

“And here’s the thing, the more we start to do this . . . to make peace and live in peace, the more we will be the kind of people who want to do this as much as we can. Why? Because we’ll discover that it’s so much better to live our lives in peace. After all, that’s what God did for us!

Think on this Basic Truth:

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) ‘I am made by God to reflect His Image.’

We are all made by God, and there are parts of us that give us a picture of who God is. The good things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and so on...are from God. When we live in peace with others because we love God and have a right relationship with Him – we are showing others around us what God is like! It’s a big deal. Remember, if you have a right relationship with God then He will help you be more peaceful when you ask – even when it’s hard!

“Let’s wrap up today by asking our Key Question.

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) ‘Why is it important to make peace?’

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1...

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.

Dear God, thank you so much for reminding us that we should live in peace with others, whenever we can. Please give us the wisdom to know how to live in peace with the people you’ve put in our lives. Give us the wisdom and the courage to make peace instead of getting angry or frustrated. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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Kids learn best through play and through conversation. Both are equally important, so be sure to give time to both!

KEY QUESTION (K-5th)

(No Supplies)

Spend some time coming together and talking about the Key Question. There aren't any right or wrong answers but use this time to help kids have a discussion about what they just learned and encourage them to grow in their faith. Try to keep the conversation spiritually based. Why does what we are talking about matter in light of what God has done for us?

Key Question: Why is it important to make peace?

(Answers will vary: God wants us to be at peace with everyone, learning to have peace helps us love other people well, we can show others who God is, learning to have peace helps us become more patient and kind towards others, etc.)

CALM DOWN FOR PEACE (K-5th)

(“Calm Down Strategies Cards” Activity Page – 1 set for SGL and 1 per kid, Crayons/Markers)

What You Do:

- SAY:
 - When you're frustrated or mad, it can be really hard to find peace. When that happens, we need some calm down strategies. There are some great ideas here for some specific things you can do in those moments to help you calm down so you can make choices that bring peace to the situation. Because it's really hard to find a peaceful solution when you're angry! Calming down first can help you live in peace with everyone. The more you practice calming down, the more peace you'll bring. When you choose to follow Jesus, you can have peace with God. God sent the Holy Spirit – who is God- to live within you. That means that the Holy Spirit will help you make peace with others. God is always ready to help you make peace whenever you can.
- Give an example of a situation where it's hard to make peace.
- Invite the kids to make a face or strike a pose to show how they might FEEL like responding in that situation.
 - For example: a fighting stance with arms up, a grumpy face, arms crossed in anger, etc.

- Explain to the kids that calm down strategies can help us “make peace whenever we can.”
- Shuffle the cards from the “Calm Down Strategy Cards” Activity Page.
 - Be sure the parent card and blank one is removed from the stack.
- Put the cards facedown.
- Call on a kid to draw a card.
- Read the card aloud and then lead the group to practice that strategy.
- Come up with (or read) scenarios where it’s hard to have peace. After each one, have kids choose which strategy they would use in that scenario.
 - NOTE: It’s ok if kids choose different strategies! That is actually good to point out. We are all different and different strategies work for different people and cases.
- SUGGESTED SCENARIOS:
 - Your two friends are angry at each other, and you step in to try to calm them down. However, they start getting angry at you too and start saying mean things. What strategy would you use?
 - Why would getting angry back make the situation worse?
 - You wake up on the wrong side of the bed. Everything just seems to be going wrong and you are annoyed by everyone and everything. What strategy would you use?
 - The kid that sits next to you in class was being distracting. The teacher thinks that you were involved, even though you weren’t. What strategy would you use?
 - You are in an argument with your brother. You are trying to do the right thing and stay calm, but you can feel yourself getting angrier and starting to lose control. What strategy would you use?
 - You and a classmate, Ryan, are the best in your class at math. Ryan doesn’t know, but you secretly want to be THE best, so yaou try really hard. However, Ryan gets a higher grade than you on the test. You can feel yourself getting angry towards him – even though he didn’t do anything. What strategy would you use?
- Give each kid a page from the “Calm Down Strategy Cards” Activity Page. Point out that there is a blank card. Have kids write a strategy of their own that they could use.
- Send the card sheet home with kids (K-1st)

CALM DOWN FOR PEACE EXTENSION (2nd-5th)

(Card Sheet from Previous Activity, Scissors, Binder Rings, Hole Punch [or just poke the paper onto the rings])

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids (2nd-5th) to cut the cards apart.
- As they finish, use the hole punch to help the kids punch a hole in each card.
- Point out the adult notecard (encourage the kids to put that card on top) and explain that this is for their grown-ups to read at pick up.
- Give each kid a piece of string/yarn or a binder ring and help them run it through the hole on each kid’s set of cards to connect them.
- Encourage kids to take these cards home and practice them this week as a way to help them calm down to make peace!

PRAY

“Dear God, thank you for loving us and for helping us every day. This week, when we’re in situations where we’re frustrated or angry and we REALLY want our own way, help us to stop. Help us to take a moment to calm down and then work to make peace whenever we can. We love you, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

FINAL ACTIVITY: Biblical Literacy (K-5th) (Memory Verse Poster)

What You Do:

- Review the memory verse.
- Repeat the verse, but each time you say it – remove a word and replace it with a clap/snap/or pat.
- Repeat until you’ve removed at least 5 words.