



PEACE | WEEK 2 | MARCH 10, 2024

## Elementary Lesson

# Let Go

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

**Bible Story:** Let Go (Abram and Lot) • Genesis 13:5-18

**Key Question:** Why is it hard to give up what you think is fair?

**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 hard to give up what you think is fair? If you walk into a fifth-grade classroom, you’ll quickly discover that kids argue with each other about the smallest things. It can be hard for a kid to walk away from conflict because they feel like their entire reputation might be at stake. We pray that our preteens will learn how to make the wise choice and work to make peace.

For week two, we head to Genesis 13:5-18. We read how Abram and Lot’s herdsmen were arguing because there wasn’t enough land for both men’s herds. Abram chose to make peace with Lot by letting Lot choose the land he wanted. Abram could have taken the best land for himself, but instead, he trusted God and allowed Lot to decide.

**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: 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY FUNDAY)** GUESS WHAT?! This month is extra special because not only is Easter at the end of the month, it’s also 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY FUNDAY! I can’t imagine a better combination. The ULTIMATE celebration! You and your friends don’t want to miss it – so be sure to invite them and their families to come with you.

**(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)

#### SOMETHING’S DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU

(No Supplies)

We are continuing our conversation about PEACE. Does anyone remember the definition? (Pause) Good job!

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

“Peace doesn’t come easy, but with God’s help we can learn to be more at peace with those around us. 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 that has nothing to do with anything. I need everyone to stand up and find a partner.

**(SLIDE: SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU)**  
**(SLIDES: FUN MUSIC)**

HOW TO PLAY:

- EXPLAIN THE GAME: Have pairs of kids/SGLs stand facing each other. Give them 10 seconds to observe their partner. Then have them turn back-to-back and give them another 10 seconds to change 1 thing about themselves (switch shoes, untuck shirt, mess up their hair, etc.). At the end of 10 seconds have them turn back around and guess what the one thing different is.
- PLAY: There are no losers – just observant (or not) kids! Have kids switch up partners and play 2 more times.

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

**WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)**  
**(VIDEO: RIVER, BURN)**

**BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)**  
**(No supplies)**

If you’re anything like me, you love a good ‘Would You Rather’ or ‘This or That.’ Have you played that before? You know, like would you rather have a nose that’s a foot long or have feet that smell things? Let’s play a quick game of that. To vote you will either raise your hands above your head or keep your hands in your lap. Got it? Ok, first two options:

List off 3 rounds of ‘good’ options (for example, ‘Raise your hand for Mexican food OR keep your hands down for Italian food’).

For the final two give them options between two ‘undesirable’ things (for example, ‘eating a pound of lima beans or a pound of asparagus’ and ‘scrubbing the dirty toilet or scrubbing the trash can that had garbage juice leak into it’)

Yeah, I know. Those (the ‘undesirable’ options) aren’t great options, but you have to pick one of them!

Whew! Have you ever faced a choice like that? Okay, maybe not exactly like choosing to eat asparagus or lima beans but one where you had to choose and neither one was great? What do you do?

“How do you even pick? Choose one way, it’s bad. Choose another way, it’s just as bad. Maybe the correct decision is to not decide at all . . . but isn’t that just prolonging things? When you’re stuck between a rock and a hard place, what do you do?”

“It’s a tough question, for sure. Thankfully we’ve got this (hold up the Bible) to help us navigate those tough questions. The wisdom written throughout this library of books and letters and poems is priceless, and we’re about to find some of that wisdom to help us make peace.”

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 4 MIN)**

Abram found himself in a tough spot with his nephew, but I love how he didn’t hold tightly to what was his but instead offered it to Lot to keep the peace. After all, Abram was the guy God spoke to in the first place. The land was promised to him. Instead of keeping it, he gave it away to keep the peace.

“Abram showed incredible trust in God. First, packing up and leaving without question. Second, giving away a promise believing God would take care of him. In the end, God kept that promise in some incredible ways I’m sure Abram never could have dreamed of!

“I’m guessing you have found yourself in a place where keeping the peace meant deciding to put someone else first. Maybe it’s not your night to unload the dishwasher or your turn to clean up after the dog, but you know that it’d be helpful. You could complain and put up a fight about ‘what’s fair’ or just take the time to help.

“Maybe you worked really hard on your team to become a captain but someone else is just as deserving—and you could choose to give someone else the opportunity to succeed.

“There are times when something isn’t fair and needs to be made right . . . and you just might need the help of an adult. That’s okay, too. But when you’re faced with your own This or That, think about what it means to care for others, even if that means giving up what you think is fair.

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! Choosing peace is always the right answer.

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

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** ‘Why is it hard to give up what you think is fair?’

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 this story about Abram, and for the way he made peace with Lot. It shows us that we can choose peace by letting go of the things we might think we deserve. Help us to remember that we can make peace with others by putting them first. And help us to remember that we can trust you no matter what. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## **DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**

## SMALL GROUP

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

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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-5<sup>th</sup>)

(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 hard to give up what you think is fair?

(Answers will vary: We feel like we deserve things, we feel like we may miss out on something if we choose peace over our own way, we are naturally selfish and we need God in our lives to help us live and think differently, etc.)

### THAT'S NOT FAIR (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(Index Card - 1, Marker, "Scenarios" Activity Page - 1 per group)

What You Do:

- Write the word "FAIR" in big block letters on the index card.
- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.
- Explain that kids are going to practice letting go of what's fair by thinking about treating others the way they want to be treated.
- Read a scenario from the "Scenarios" Activity Page.
- After reading the scenario, lead the group to say, "That's not fair."
- Choose a kid to pick a number between 1 and the number of kids you have in your group.
- Pass the card around the circle, counting until you get to the number chosen.
- Read the scenario again and ask the kid with the card to hand it back to you (literally, letting go of what's "FAIR").
- Direct the kid who let go of the card to share how they might let go of what's fair in the situation.

If kids are stumped, there are possible responses on the "Scenarios" Activity Page.

What You Say:

“When something doesn’t seem fair, it can be hard to just let it go! When you find yourself about to say, ‘that’s not fair’—stop! In that moment, change your thinking from ‘that’s not fair’ to ‘I should treat others the way I want to be treated’ instead. This will help you do or say something that’s helpful instead of hurtful.

“When you let go of what’s fair, it’s a way to show we trust that God will take care of us no matter what. Sometimes though, things aren’t fair, and they really should be. Sometimes situations happen where people are being unsafe or unkind. If you notice someone being picked on or left out or treated in a way you would not want to be treated, always let a trusted adult know. This week, instead of insisting on getting your own way, remember, you can show you care by letting go of what’s fair.”

## THAT’S NOT FAIR EXTENSION (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)

(“Conflict Connection” Activity Page - 1 for each 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade group AND 1 per kid in 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, Pencils/Markers/Crayons)

What You Do:

- Ask:
  - “When we choose to let go of what’s fair to create peace with others, we are switching on the power of peace. What does fair mean?”
- Give each kid a copy of the “Conflict Connection” Activity Page and a pencil.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Do 1 sheet all together.
- Encourage kids to take time to think about a conflict that they may be navigating right now (or that they have faced recently).
- Instruct kids to write about their conflict in the middle of their “Conflict Connection” Activity Page.
- Challenge the kids to think about the feelings or perspective of each person involved on both sides of the conflict. (Encourage them to imagine why the situation matters to the other person.)
- Instruct them to fill in the boxes on the sides of the “Conflict Connection” Activity Page that provide perspective of each person involved.
- Ask:
  - “Why do you think taking the time to consider someone else’s perspective can help us make peace in that situation?”
  - “Who else can help us make peace when our own efforts don’t seem to work? (NOTE: Be sure to acknowledge there are times when something isn’t fair and needs to be made right; encourage kids to talk with an adult about that.)
  - “Have you ever had to give up something you thought you deserved?”
  - “How does it feel to lose or miss out on something?”
  - “Why is it hard to give up what you think is fair?”

## PRAY

“God, thank you for putting so many wonderful people in our lives. Show us how to treat them the way you want us to treat them. Help us to remember that it’s more important to make others feel cared for instead of getting what we want. And God, give us opportunities to practice peace this week. We love you and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## FINAL ACTIVITY: Biblical Literacy (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

### (Ball, “Romans 12:18 Cards” - 1-2 sets per group)

#### What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Romans 12:18 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Romans at the top of the page as you say “Romans” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 12 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 12 for the little 18; 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Romans in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Romans starts with the letters R-O. When the kids find Romans, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Romans. Help the kids find the page. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 18 in chapter 12.

- Point out the part of the verse about how we are to live at peace as much (or as far) as we can.
- Lay out the cards from the “Romans 12:18 Cards” Activity Page in a line in order.
  - NOTE: If you have more than eight kids in your group, divide into two teams with two sets of cards and run this game as a relay race.
- Point out the numbers on the cards for pre-readers.
- Instruct the kids to form a line.
- Hand the first two kids in line a ball.
- When you say, “Go!,” instruct the first kid in line to run to bounce the ball on the first card of the verse.
- Read the words on the card as the kid bounces the ball and invite the kid to repeat them.
- Direct the kid to run back to tag the next friend in line.
- Repeat with the remaining words of the verse—running to bounce the ball in order on each card as you repeat the verse together.
- As kids return to the line, direct them to hand off the ball to the next kid in line without one, then join the back of the line.
- Continue until the entire verse has been reviewed.
- After the first round, mix up the cards so they are no longer in order.

#### What You Say:

“God wants you to live in peace with everyone, and to do that as MUCH as you can. That means that you must keep calm and look for solutions, instead of worrying so much about winning an argument or proving your way is the right way. It’s hard when you think you’re right, but bringing peace means stopping to listen and understand the other person’s point of view. And when you see two friends not getting along, remember that you can help others make peace. If you ask for help, God will help you be a peacemaker!”