



PEACE | WEEK 3 | MARCH 17, 2024

Elementary Lesson

The Peacemaker

Monthly Virtue: 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: How can you be a peacemaker?

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: How can you be a peacemaker? It’s one thing to SAY that peace is important. It’s another thing to actively work toward making peace. As kids go about their day, we hope they learn to stop, look around, and see how they can help make peace between people they know who are experiencing an argument.

In 1 Samuel 25:1-35, we find a story about a woman named Abigail. We read how King David was furious with a man named Nabal who had mistreated his men. David decided to get revenge . . . until Nabal’s wife, Abigail, intercepted him, apologized, and offered gifts as a way to make peace. Even though Abigail wasn’t responsible for her husband’s offense, she realized that she could play a role in making peace

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: 5th SUNDAY FUNDAY) “GUESS WHAT?! This month is extra special because not only is Easter at the end of the month, it’s also 5th 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)

BIBLE BOOK CHALLENGE

(Tape Line - optional)

“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 will test your knowledge of what you’ve been learning all this year. The books of the Bible!”

(SLIDE: Books Of The Bible Challenge)
(SLIDES: BotB Challenge Slides #1-10)

HOW TO PLAY:

- REVIEW: Say that the Bible is broken up into two parts – the Old and New Testament. The Old Testament talks about how the world was made perfect by God, but then it was broken by our sin. It also tells us of the promise that God will one day send us a Savior. The New Testament is all about that Savior – Jesus! It talks about how we can have a relationship with God through Jesus, and then it tells us about the first followers of Jesus – Christians.
- EXPLAIN THE GAME: Optional – put down a tape line, or just have kids stand in a line down the middle of your space. Say that you will show the names of 10 different books of the Bible (there are 66 books in the Bible). They have to choose if it belongs in the Old or New Testament by quickly going to one side or the other of the tape line.
 - To make it more competitive for older kids, you can have anyone who guesses incorrectly to sit down.
- PLAY: Show the slide with the name of the book and then the answer. Since there are 10 slides, try to either move quickly or not show all of the slides. Get your SGLs involved in the game too!

“How’d you do? Don’t worry, you will get a chance to practice more in your small group time. Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)
(VIDEO: BURN, WAVEWALKER)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)
(No supplies)

“So, question, what does WiFi, tape, and velcro have in common? (Pause) That’s right – they connect things!

“Connections are great. When things are connected, like your phone to WIFI, life is good and things run smoothly. What happens, though, when the internet goes out? When the WI-FI stops working? Some of us lose our minds in frustration.

“Bad connection. Connection dropped. No longer connected. It doesn’t just happen with the world wide web; it also happens with people. Have you ever seen a bad situation where that kind of disconnection happens? Maybe your friends argue and you get in a fight and you stop talking to each other. Maybe a text or a Snap got misinterpreted and now things are super awkward.

“What do you do when that happens? That’s a tough question. Miscommunication, bad connections, or downed power lines are no joke. Thankfully, we know where we can go for help. (Hold up the Bible) The Bible! Remember, the Bible was written by actual people who had some

personal experiences with God and were inspired to write about their experiences so people like us could learn to trust God with our lives. Let's find out some truths from the Bible right now.

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 6 MIN)

"It's interesting to think about what might have happened in this story if Abigail hadn't intervened. I mean, David was really upset about the way he and his men were treated, and he was prepared to take matters into his own hands. Rightfully so—David was kind, needed help, and Nabal turned him down flat and was a total jerk about it.

"This whole situation was headed toward a terrible collision. But Abigail did something really difficult. She stood between two parties that were divided and found a way to make peace. She was 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? And in that moment, you can say things to make things worse by picking a side. 'Oh yeah, they always act like that!' or 'But did you hear when they said this?' and then pretty soon what was just a little spark explodes into a full-blown fire.

"Or, in those moments, you can be the peacemaker. 'Are you sure that's what they said?' 'What if we talk about it together?' You can be the bridge to peace, just like Abigail.

"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 and help OTHERS have peace - 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) 'How can you be a peacemaker?'

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 for the story of Abigail. Thank You for helping her to be courageous and creative in the way she stepped in to make peace. Help us to do that too. Show us how we can use the talents and skills You’ve given us to help make peace with the people around us. 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: "How can you be a peacemaker?"

(Answers will vary: I can listen to each side with compassion, I can pray that God will help me be wise and a good friend, I can encourage people to think about how God wants us to love each other and live in peace, etc.)

PASS THE PEACE (K-5th) (Ball, "Pass the Peace" Activity Page -1 per group, Memory Verse Poster)

What You Do:

- Lead a game similar to Hot Potato.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one kid in the circle the small ball or object.
- Start saying the memory verse.
- Instruct the kid with the small ball (or object) to start passing it around the circle.
- When you reach the end of the memory verse (you can change the pace that you read the verse to make it more dramatic) have them stop passing the ball. Read a question from the "Pass the Peace" Activity Page.
- Direct the kid who is holding the ball to respond to the situation by sharing how they could make peace.
- Once the kid has shared a peaceful response, start the verse again.
- Continue playing and asking questions from the "Pass the Peace" Activity Page until all kids have had a chance to answer.
 - o NOTE: Repeat scenarios, if needed, inviting kids to share another idea.

What You Say:

“Those were some great, peaceful suggestions! Have you ever been in a situation similar to one of these? (Invite responses.) Yes—me too! Sometimes, I start feeling angry because I want to get my way, but that’s not the best response. When people don’t see eye-to-eye, you can choose how you respond, and you can help others make peace. Even if we’re not involved in the conflict, we can thoughtfully help others make peace before a big argument starts!

“Everyone had great ideas on how to help make peace in these scenarios! But what do you do if you don’t know how to help make peace, or if you’re feeling uncomfortable? (Invite responses.) If you’re not feeling comfortable, it’s best to talk to a trusted adult. We have many trusted adults in our lives! Who’s someone you can talk to? (Invite responses.) Trusted adults are there to help us whenever we need them—including tricky situations with others. There are times when we all need a little extra help to make peace!”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (2nd-5th) (No Supplies)

What You Do:

- Ask: (an assortment of these questions)
 - Why does conflict feel so uncomfortable?
 - Is it challenging to step in and be a peacemaker? Why or why not?
 - Are there times when you should not be the peacemaker?
 - Would you want someone to help you make peace if you’re in a conflict?
 - How can you be a peacemaker?
 - Should you always take on the responsibility of being a peacemaker for others?
 - When can you know that it’s time to let someone else help?
- Close this activity in prayer.

PRAY

“God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who has made a way to have a relationship with You. Thank You for the peace we’re able to have when we experience a relationship with You. Help us see where we can create peace—in our families, in our schools, and in our communities. And give us the strength to ask for help when we need it. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

FINAL ACTIVITY: Biblical Literacy (K-5th) (Supplies Vary)

What You Do:

Follow the instructions of the “Books of the Bible” activity that is in your bin.