



PEACE | WEEK 4 | MARCH 24, 2024

Elementary Lesson

Palm Sunday

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

Bible Story: Take You at Your Word (Palm Sunday) • Matthew 21:1-11

Key Question: Why are promises important?

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 are promises important? We start with a high-level question about promises to get kids thinking about the ways that making and keeping promises can build trust with people. Promises can allow us remain at peace with each other. They can also show how much we’re willing to go the extra mile to show others how much they mean to us. Most of all, we pray that kids start to understand some of God’s huge promises that came true through Jesus.

We kick off Easter week with the story of Palm Sunday as described in Matthew 21:1-11. By this time, God’s people had been waiting hundreds of years for God’s promised Savior. As Jesus’ ministry grew, the people were starting to believe that Jesus WAS that Savior. They were sure that God’s promises were finally coming true! So, when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, just like a prophecy foretold, the people celebrated and worshipped Him. And while they might not have fully understood how Jesus was about to make peace, they could celebrate because God was faithful to send a Savior.

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)

PASS THE CHARGE

(Hula Hoops - 2 or more depending on the number of kids you have)

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!

(SLIDE: PASS THE CHARGE)

(SLIDES: FUN MUSIC)

HOW TO PLAY:

- **SPLIT INTO TEAMS:** Split your room into even-ish teams - matching the amount of hula hoops that were provided to you. Have kids stand shoulder to shoulder and hold hands.
- **EXPLAIN THE GAME:** Explain that when you hit a light switch on a lamp the electricity passes through the cord to make the light bulb light up. The kids linked together are the cord and the hula hoop resembles the electric charge. When you say GO the first person in line will step through the hoop -without letting go of the hand of the person next to them - pass the hoop. The hoop will continue down the unbroken line. Once a person has passed the hoop they need to start moving their arms up and down so the line of people who have already gone starts to look like the wave! First team to be 'fully charged' wins.
 - Rooms with less kids: Have kids pass the hula hoop all the way down and back. You can play as one big team and see how long it takes to become 'fully charged'.

"That was electrifying! Get it? Ok... Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: WAVEWALKER, EVERY BEAT)

BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No supplies)

I can't believe next week is Easter . . . I blinked and we're already nearing the end of March. Crazy! I'm not sure I can wait for next week. It's such a great time hanging with my family, eating amazing food and, of course, celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

"Have you ever had to wait for something? Maybe something you were promised would happen, something fun, and you are bouncing in your seat, going completely insane just waiting?"

Tell a personal story of something exciting you had to wait for. Maybe a family trip, a birthday, or results from trying out for a sport or a musical.

What about you? Have you ever had to wait on a promise?"

I get it. I've been there. But sometimes . . . the promise isn't what you thought it would be. Sometimes you've built it up in your head so much that when the thing you've been waiting for happens . . . it's kind of a letdown.

"What does it feel like when something doesn't go the way you thought it should? Or worse when someone makes a promise . . . but then they bail on it? How do you react when the thing you've been hoping for and waiting for turns out to be not what you built up in your head?"

‘Those are great questions. And, as always, we’ve got an excerpt from this (hold up Bible) to help us out. The Bible is all about promises—and the God who knows how to keep them!’

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 9 MIN)

“I don’t know about you, but there are certainly times when I can get caught hoping God will do things one way, and all of my hope is built on that expectation. Answer my prayer a specific way. Deal with mean people a specific way. Bless me specifically like this. But God might not always respond the way we expect. In fact, He often doesn’t!

“But just like Jesus entering into Jerusalem the final week of his life, just because God doesn’t do what you hope doesn’t mean God isn’t about to do something even greater. And it’s important for us to look back at all the ways that God has kept promises in the past, because it will help us to trust God more with our own lives.

Think on this Basic Truth:

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) ‘I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

Even when hope seems dim, we can trust in God to be with us and to give us wisdom. He always keeps promises.

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

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) ‘Why are promises important?’

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 sending Jesus to be our Savior! You loved us enough to send Jesus FOR us, just as You promised. We can see how the people celebrated Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. We see how they honored Him as King. Please help us to do that too, and to celebrate all that Jesus has done for 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: Why are promises important?'

(Answers will vary: We want to be trustworthy, we want to have good character, we should keep promises because God does, we need to make WISE promises and not foolish ones, etc.)

PROMISES FULFILLED (K-5th)

("Promises Fulfilled - K-1st" - 1 set per K/1st group; "Promises Fulfilled - 2nd-5th" - 2-3 sets per group, Pencils/Markers, Bibles)

What You Do:

- SAY:
 - We learned today that God ALWAYS keeps his promises. Because we can see that God fulfilled so many promises in Jesus - and all throughout the Bible! - we can trust God no matter what.
 - Let's explore some of the promises that God made in the Old Testament. Remember, 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.
- DO:
 - **K-1st Grade:**
 - Mix the cards up and lay them face up in the middle of your group. Choose one of the Old Testament cards and read it.
 - Have kids find the matching card (indicated by matching symbols).

- Work together to find the New Testament verse in the Bible. Read it out loud.
 - Demonstrate how to go to the Table of Contents, find the book page number, the chapter number, and then the verse.
 - Make the comparison that what God promises in the Old Testament was completed with Jesus.
 - Continue for all of the cards.
 - After going through all of the cards, flip them over, mix them up, and lay them out in a grid facedown.
 - Play Memory Match as a group as interest allows.
 - One at a time, flip over two cards. If they match, that player keeps the pair. If they don't match, flip them back over and it's the next player's turn.
- 2nd-5th Grade:
- Lay out 1 set of "Promises Fulfilled - 2nd-5th" cards. Have a kid pick a New Testament card.
 - A good one to start with is "Matthew 21:6-7"
 - Demonstrate how to look up the verse.
 - Demonstrate how to go to the Table of Contents, find the book page number, the chapter number, and then the verse.
 - Have a kid read it out loud. Write a key word(s) in the blank of the card.
 - Optional: draw a unique symbol or color in the corner to help you with the Memory Matching game later.
 - Look at the Old Testament options and find the promise that matches.
 - Optional: draw the matching NT symbol or color in the corner.
 - Now that the kids know how to do the activity, split them into smaller groups and give each group a set of cards, pencils, and Bibles. Have them finish all of their cards.
 - Once they have completed their cards - come back together and check the answers.
 - ANSWER KEY:
 - Isaiah 7:14 - Matthew 1:21-23
 - Micah 5:2 - Matthew 2:1
 - Isaiah 61:1 - Matthew 21:6-7
 - Psalm 22:16 - John 20:24-29
 - Psalm 78:1-2 - Matthew 13:34-35
 - Have the smaller groups play Memory Match as interest allows.
 - One at a time, flip over two cards. If they match, that player keeps the pair. If they don't match, flip them back over and it's the next player's turn.

What You Say:

There are over 8,000 promises that God makes in the Bible. A lot of them are about Jesus, but a lot of them are also about God always being with us, helping us when we ask Him, or about what it will be like when Jesus comes back!

Knowing that God always keeps His promises gives us confidence to trust Him now, and to have hope in the future! When I doubt myself, I never have to doubt God.

PRAY

“God, thank You so much for loving us. Thank You for giving us Jesus, who came to be our Savior. Help us to understand how big that love is! Give us opportunities to show love and kindness to others as we remember how much You loved us first. Help us to remember the promises You’ve given us, and to trust that You always keep Your promises. Thank You for everything You’ve done for us. 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.