



WEEK THREE – JUNE 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Peaceful Easy Feeling* • Matthew 6:25–27

Bottom Line: *You can have peace because God is in control.*

Memory Verse: *“The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.” Galatians 5:22–23a, NIV*

Life App: *What God is doing in you to change the world around you*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: Next we head to a moment from the Sermon on the Mount recorded for us in Matthew 6:26. Jesus reminded His followers not to worry. After all, if God cares for the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, God will definitely care for each one of us and what we need.

EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Index Cards; Pencils

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Pass out an index card and a pencil to the kids as they arrive.
- Instruct kids to write down the BEST thing that happened to them this week on one side of the card and the WORST thing that happened this week on the other.
- Collect the cards and make sure you can read what they've written so you can use them for an activity after Large Group.

2. Birds & Flowers

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Paper, crayons, school glue, feathers, chenille stems, tissue paper, and other craft supplies

What You Do:

- Place all the provided supplies in the center of the small group area.
- Encourage the children to use the supplies in any way they choose to create either a bird or a flower. They may illustrate them on paper or create 3D versions.
- After several minutes, let the kids share their creations with the group.
- Set their bird/flower creations aside for Prayer time.

What You Say:

“Wow! There is so much creativity in this group. [Transition] I wonder what birds and flowers have to do with our Bible story today. Let’s head to Large Group to find out.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *You can have peace because God is in control.* Sometimes we might wonder what kids have to worry about. However, any disruption in schedule or expectations or argument with a friend, can cause kids to feel like life is out of control. We hope that as kids learn how much God cares for them, they'll discover how they can find peace.

SMALL GROUP

1. Peck a Verse

[Memory Verse Activity]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bibles, “Memory Verse Phrases” (Activity Pages), clothespins

What You Do:

- Look up Galatians 5:22–23a and review it together as a group.
- Scatter the phrases on the floor around your small group area.
- Give each kid a clothespin, and challenge the kids to pick up the cards. They may only pick them up with a clothespin, mimicking a bird’s beak either by using their hand to open and close the clothespin or putting it in their mouth and using their teeth to open and close the pin.
- Then, still using only the clothespins, kids must work together to put the phrases in verse order and repeat the verse together to check their work.
- Then REVERSE the process.
- Select one kid to remove a phrase.
- Encourage the kids to recite the verse again, including missing phrase.
- Continue removing a phrase and repeating the verse until the kids can recite the verse from memory.

What You Say:

*“Have you ever watched a bird peck around to find twigs for its nest or food for its young? This week, when you find yourself becoming anxious about something or you start to worry, think about this verse. God can help you find peace even when things are uncertain. Peace is a fruit that His Spirit can produce in you when you trust Jesus! So remember, **[Bottom Line]** you can have peace because God is in control.”*

2. Finding Peace

[Application Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Index cards from Early Arriver, clothespins

What You Do:

- Grab the index cards the kids filled out in Early Arriver. Make sure you have one card for each child.
- Scatter the cards on the floor a few feet from your small group space.
- Let the kids take turns running to the scattered cards to pick up one using a clothespin.
- Encourage the kids to pick a card that isn't theirs and then sit back down in your small group area.
- Once all the kids have returned with a card, give them a minute to turn to the not-so-great side, read it, and then come up with a way you could have peace when you remember that God is in control.
- Let each child share their response with the group.

What You Say:

*“I know it’s easy to worry and to think we have to figure things out on our own. But that’s the opposite of what God wants us to do when we begin to worry. Instead, we need to remember that He is with us. He already knows what will happen, and He is in control. You can trust Him because He made you and He loves you so much. **[Bottom Line] You can have peace because God is in control.**”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Birds and flowers kids created in earlier activity

What You Do:

- Allow kids to hold their birds or flowers as you pray for them.

What You Say:

*“Just like the birds and flowers don’t worry about what they will eat or what they will wear, we do not need to worry about our lives either. God is in control, and He has a good plan for us. We just need to trust Him and follow His Word. When we do, we’ll find real peace. **[Bottom Line] You can have peace because God is in control. Let’s pray.***

“Heavenly Father, we love You. Thank You for the beautiful birds and colorful flowers You’ve created with such care. Every time we see one this week, remind us that You are in control so we don’t have to worry. Thanks for always taking care of us. We trust in You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their bird or flower creation and explain how [Bottom Line] you can have peace because God is in control.