



WEEK
FOUR
APRIL 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Play-Doh® and paper plates

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out a paper plate and a container of Play-Doh to groups of 4-5 kids.
- Ask the kids to make a series of things with their dough.

Give them a minute or so each to make:

- Elephant
- Roller skates
- Christmas tree
- Hamburger

- Ask the kids to use their dough to make "peace."
- Give them the remaining time to work on it.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Peacemaker
Abigail Intervenes
1 Samuel 25:1-35

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You sure were creative making all those things—especially peace! Sometimes, you have to get really creative to think of ways to make peace in different situations. **[Transition] Let's go hear about someone who made peace using donkeys!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.
Romans 14:19, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



SADDLE-UP

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Saddle-Up Sequence Cards" Activity page, pool noodles, masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team a pool noodle.
- Line the teams up on one side of your small group's area, facing a wall on the other side.
- Put masking tape loops in a line on the wall.
- Give teams the "Saddle-Up Sequence Cards." Make sure they are well shuffled.
- Instruct the teams to, one at a time, take a random "Saddle-Up Sequence Card" and "ride" the pool noodle (donkey) to the wall.
- Direct them to put the "Saddle-Up Sequence Card" where they think it should go and "ride" their donkey back.
- When all of the "Saddle-Up Sequence Cards" are on the wall, teams can send kids to "ride" to the wall and fix the order, one card at a time, so that the cards are in story order.
- The first team to have all of their cards in order and their "donkey" back, wins.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"In our Bible Story today, Abigail moved quickly to make peace with David. She didn't wait around to see a fight between her husband and David's men. No, Abigail decided to be part of the solution and saddled-up those donkeys with gifts!

"Sometimes, we try to stay out of things when we don't want to risk getting made fun of or even in trouble ourselves. But sometimes, the best thing to do is ACT! Do something to build peace before it's too late.

"Let's say at school, you know one of your friends is upset with a teacher. She plans to make a big scene in his class. You could just sit back and watch her do her thing then get in trouble, or you could ACT to make peace. What could you do? (Help her calm down and think through the situation; maybe give the teacher a heads-up but not in a "tattle tale" way)

"You have a choice when you know people aren't getting along. **You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.**"

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you were part of a peaceful solution, like standing up for a friend in need or working with your family on a project together instead of taking sides.)





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MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



BRIDGE BUSTERS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bridge Verse Cards" Activity Page from Week Two, Bibles, and masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape a wide "river" on a section of the floor of your small group's area. It should be wide enough that four or five kids can stand in it shoulder-to-shoulder.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Instruct each team to make a shoulder-to-shoulder line across the "river," with one kid on either "bank" and the rest in the middle.
- Direct the teams to pass the verse cards from one bank to the other—down the "bridge."
- As they pass the cards, call out different "bridge busters:"
 - Earthquake: Everyone shakes and the kid standing the middle has to sit down and not touch a verse card until a card has gone all the way from one side to the other.
 - Flood: Everyone sits down and has to pass the card behind their backs.
 - Cold wind: Everyone puts their hands in their pockets to keep warm and has to pass the cards with their knees or feet.
 - Lights out: Kids have to pass the cards with their eyes closed.
 - Construction: Every other kid along the bridge has to kneel down and can't pass cards at all until one card has made its way from one side to the other.
- Call a variety of "busters" until one team has all of their cards on their far "bank."
- Direct both teams to put the cards in order using a Bible open to Romans 14:19. The team that puts the cards in correct order first, wins!

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"I'm glad bridges are built of strong stuff—they go through a lot! Today, we learned that **you can show you care about others by being part of the solution**, and that makes me think of bridges!

"The people bridges you just made stayed strong, no matter what, and kept passing those verse cards along. You didn't quit because it was too hard or all jump onto one side of the bank or the other. You did the work of being a bridge and bringing peace.

"Sometimes being part of the solution is hard work! When has it been hard to make peace in your school or neighborhood? (*Invite answers.*) What about on your sports team or after school group? (*Invite answers.*) There will always be a reason not to make peace, but don't forget that **you can show you care about others by being part of the solution.**"



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REACT OR RESPOND

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Scenario" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Assign one team to be "Team React" and the other team to be "Team Respond."
- Unpack what "react" and "respond" mean and how they are different.
 - Reacting usually involves acting without thinking.
 - Taking time to respond gives your mind time to think about how to be part of the solution.
- Pause after sharing each scenario to give the teams time to brainstorm.
 - Instruct "Team React" to brainstorm one idea on how the scenario could be handled poorly and end in a bad argument or fight.
 - Instruct "Team Respond" to brainstorm one solution on how the scenario could be handled well and lead to a peaceful ending.
- Give each team a chance to share their idea before sharing the next scenario.
- Switch teams midway through sharing scenarios to give everyone a chance to experience being part of a solution, i.e. Team Respond.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"In all of these scenarios, you had a choice. You could make things worse by reacting or making a hasty decision, which would ultimately end in a bad fight or argument. Or you could be part of the solution to make sure the situation doesn't turn into an argument or fight. Can you think of some ways you can be part of a solution? (Pause for responses.) Those are great thoughts! Maybe you can help others see a different perspective so they can find common ground, or you can help brainstorm solutions that they might not have considered. Maybe you can muster up the courage to ask someone who is reacting to cool off.

"We face situations every day where we can choose to react or respond. We have the power to either make things worse or better! God wants each one of us to be like Abigail in today's story. **You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.**"

[Make it Personal] (Share a time when you had a conflict with someone and instead of wasting energy on proving you were right, you chose to find a solution that would satisfy everyone. Maybe you made a compromise or just apologized. Whatever the case, help kids see the solution part of your example.)





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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Play-Doh® from the Opening Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out the Play-Doh from the Opening Activity and encourage groups of 4-5 kids to make something that will remind them

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that **you can show you care about others by being part of the solution.**

- Give time for any kid who chooses to share their creation and their plans for peacemaking this week.
- Close in prayer.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You again for making peace with us so that we can make peace with others. Help us be on the lookout for ways to be part of the solution this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, send home the Play-Doh with each kid for sanitation reasons, if you'd like. Prompt kids to tell the adults about the "Peace Solution Salad Dressing" and offer them a taste!

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