

WEEK
ONE
MARCH 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES**

MADE TO CONNECT

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for making peace with us through Jesus. Thank God for the promise to give us peace when we've done all that we can to live in peace with others. Pray for the kids in your group who may be experiencing ongoing conflict or tension. Pray they would find a safe place in your small group to

experience and understand God's peace.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Whenever, Wherever

Live in Peace with Everyone
Romans 12:18

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, "Friend Circuit" Activity Page, and pencils

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Make peace whenever you can.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a "Friend Circuit" Activity Page and a pencil.
- Encourage the kids to write qualities or traits they like in a friend in the blank spaces.
- As kids continue to arrive, encourage the kids to find another kid who matches one of the qualities on the "Friendship Circuit" Activity Page.
- When they find a kid who matches something on the page, instruct that kid to sign their name inside of the box of the other kid's "Friendship Circuit" Activity Page.
- Set the rule that a kid can't sign another kid's paper more than once.
- When everyone has arrived, compare "Friend Circuit" Activity Pages to see who has the most signatures.
- Invite kids to share something they learned about someone else in the group.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can."

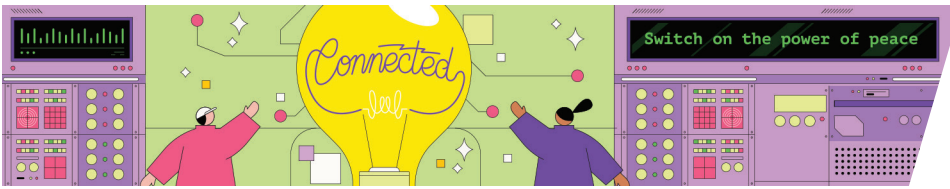
Romans 12:18, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



1. POWER UP PEACE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Power Up Peace" Activity Page; whiteboard and dry-erase marker or poster board and marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Tell the kids you're going to create blanks to represent a word from the Bible story.
- Pick a word from the "Power Up Peace" Activity Page, but don't tell the kids what it is.
- Use the marker to draw a blank line on the whiteboard or poster for each letter in the word.
- *Optional: Fill in the first letter of the word to help get kids started.*
- Invite kids to take turns guessing a letter.
 - If the letter is in the word, fill in those blank(s) on the board.
 - If the letter is not in the word, draw a part of the peace sign as shown on the "Power Up Peace" Activity Page.
- Challenge the kids to guess the word before you draw all five parts of the peace sign.
- Invite any kids who think they know the word to solve it at any time during the game.
- One the kids guess a word correctly, ask if they remember what it has to do with today's story. (Possible responses listed below.)
 - Paul: *wrote a letter to a new group of Jesus-followers in Rome*
 - Letter: *Paul's letter helped explain what it looks like to follow Jesus.*
 - Romans: *a letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Rome*
 - Peace: *a feeling of calm; proving you care more about each other than winning an argument*
 - Listen: *We can show peace by listening to people even if we don't agree.*
 - Everyone: *Paul wrote: "If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can." (Romans 12:18, NlrV)*
- Repeat with each word from the "Power Up Peace" Activity Page.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Whenever, Wherever

Live in Peace with Everyone
Romans 12:18

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Make peace whenever you can.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can."

Romans 12:18, NlrV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You all did a great job guessing some very important words from today's Bible story! What were some of the words we found today? (Pause for responses: Paul, letter, Romans, peace, listen, everyone.)"

"Is it always easy to have peace? (Pause for responses.) It sounds like peace might be a little easier for some and a little harder for others. When we're upset, it can sometimes feel easier to react quickly and say the first thing that pops into our head. But instead, we should pause and think about how we can make peace in that situation. You might not always have everything go your way, but it's important to care about others and **make peace whenever you can.**"



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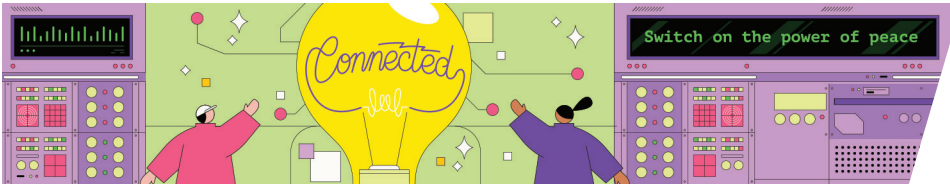
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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. POWER UP PEACE, CONTINUED)

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when you were in a situation that made you feel upset or frustrated, but you chose peace anyway. Maybe a sibling made you upset, or a friend forgot your birthday, or you got into an argument with a coworker. Talk about why it was important for you to care more about others and make the choice to keep the peace.)



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. ACT IT OUT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

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

Navigation Tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Whenever, Wherever

Live in Peace with Everyone
Romans 12:18

***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd 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." 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.*

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Make peace whenever you can.

- Read the verse out loud a few times together.
- Instruct the kids to come up with hand motions and other movements to go along with the verse.
 - Kids can work in pairs or groups, or you can keep everyone together to share ideas.
- Give the kids a few moments to create motions.
- Recite the verse with the motions a few times together—allow the kids to lead when appropriate.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can."

Romans 12:18, NIV

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was so much fun! I loved seeing the motions you chose to go along with our Memory Verse this month. Keep practicing the verse and share it with your families too!

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

"This month's Memory Verse is all about peace, and it's so helpful to remember to choose peace whenever we can. Choosing peace is a great way to treat others the way we want to be treated. When we choose to care about others more than we care about winning an argument, we're choosing peace. Use this month's Memory Verse to help you remember to **make peace whenever you can!**"

BASIC TRUTH

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



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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper; coloring supplies; LEGO® blocks; large, prepared poster or paper; small objects

WHAT YOU DO:

- Designate three spaces in your area for prayer stations.
- In one station, place the paper and coloring supplies. This will be the “Create” station.
- In another station, place the LEGO® blocks. This will be the “Build” station.
- In the third station, place the small objects on the “ANGER” side of the prepared paper. This is the “Reflect” station.
- Divide your group into three smaller groups.
- Assign each group to start at one of the three stations.
- Explain each station to the kids in the following ways.
 - **CREATE station:** Using coloring supplies, draw a picture of what **peace** looks like to you. What people and things bring you peace? What colors will you use?
 - **BUILD station:** Using LEGO® blocks, build a **place** where you feel peace (home, room, nature, etc.). As you put the blocks together, thank God for being able to have that place in your life. Take apart your creation before moving to the next station.
 - **REFLECT station:** Take an object (rock, button, penny) from the side of the paper labeled, ANGER. Hold the object and think about a time you've felt angry because some things were not fair. Then, place your object under the word PEACE. Think about what it would look like to choose peace in that situation. Then, close your eyes and practice listening to what God might be telling you about choosing peace in difficult situations.
- Play quiet music in the background.
- Instruct the kids to remain quiet (peaceful) so everyone can focus on their prayer station.
- After 2-3 minutes at a station, encourage the groups to move to another station.
- Continue until each kid has gone through all three stations.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Romans 12:18

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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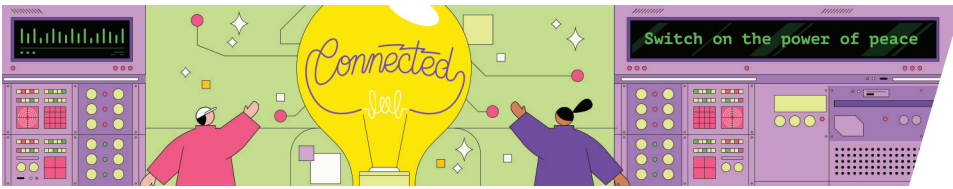
BASIC TRUTH

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

“I loved this quiet time we were all able to spend with God! We can pray to God anytime—when we’re coloring, or playing games, or riding the school bus, or falling asleep at night. And when you ask, God can help you choose to **make peace whenever you can.**”

“God, thank You for sending Jesus so we can have peace with You. Thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit, who helps us make peace with others. This week,



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(4. PRAY AND DISMISS, CONTINUED)

help us to stop and think about ways we can make peace with others instead of reacting quickly when we don't feel peaceful. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share their letters. Invite kids to ask their family how they can choose to make peace in their lives.