



WEEK
ONE
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

Communicator Guide

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Whenever, Wherever
Live in Peace with Everyone
Romans 12:18

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is it important to make peace?

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, 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.

WEEK 1

Key Question: **Why is it important to make peace?** Preteens are just becoming aware of the complexities of getting along with others. They may wonder if the work it takes to make peace with their friends, classmates, or teammates is worth it. We hope that talking through the importance of peace will be a great start in helping them see how they can choose peace in their relationships with others.

In week one, we look at something Paul wrote in **Romans 12:18**: *"If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can."* This is a big challenge! Do as much as you can to live in peace . . . with everyone! Paul was stressing how important it is for us to do everything in our power to fix what is broken—and make connections with the people around us. After all, this is what God did for us through Jesus.

Bottom Line: **Make peace whenever you can.** When God made peace with us through Jesus, God showed us that peace with others is possible. This doesn't mean that it will be easy, but living in peace with others is worth our best effort. We pray that kids will discover how they can show God's love by the way they make peace with the people in their lives.

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to your Small Groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"Why is it important to make peace? How have you tried the opposite before and seen that it doesn't work? Or what is your struggle in the moment when the peace is threatened? Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us follow the example of Jesus . . . who was and still is the Prince of Peace! Let's pray!"

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hello, friends! Welcome to a brand-new month here at [Name of Environment]! I don't know about you, but I love science. Learning about this amazing world God created, stars and planets, animals, electricity, doesn't matter—I'm all in if I can geek out.

"There are always connections from science to Scripture, too! Just like there's power in that light socket over there, there's power in finding the peace of God. It's time to get 'connected' as we 'switch on' the power of peace!

"I've got a game that should get some of you a bit charged up. I need eight people . . . who's feeling sparky?"

SLIDE: "STICKY STATIC SPARKS"

Choose eight volunteers and place them in two lines of four. There is a starting/finish line and a cone to run around. Bop a balloon over to each team.



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“On my ‘Go,’ the first person in each line needs to charge up their balloon—static style. You can rub it on your hair . . . the carpet . . . your shirt . . . whatever works! Then stick it to yourself, your shirt, your face, your arm—you pick. Once you charge it up and stick it somewhere, hands off!

“Then, as quickly as you can, move down, around the cone, and back. If you can do that without the balloon falling, hand it off to the next person in line and repeat the process. If the balloon drops at any time, recharge it on the spot and continue! The first team to get all four people down and around will win!

“Get it? Got it? Ready, set . . . GO!

Play the game. Keep the energy up by cheering on each volunteer. Once a team has all four kids back behind the start line, declare a winner and applaud all volunteers.

“Well done! I’m shocked how well you did. (pause) I know. Dad jokes. It’s what I’ve got. Now let’s stand together and worship!”



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WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hi, everyone! I always love this time with you when we get to worship God together. Let's give all we have today to sing . . . to move . . . and to have a thankful heart for all that God is doing in our lives. This song is about us giving it all to God. Let's sing this together.

AUDIO: "ALL TO YOU" / TRACK 1 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "ALL TO YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"That's right! We can trust that God will never, ever let us go. Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

"We have a new song to sing today. It's called 'Jesus Is Peace.' Can you say that? Say, 'Jesus is peace.' (Get a reaction, and repeat as needed.) That's a good reminder for us in this life. Our relationship with Jesus is what will give us true, lasting peace. I hope this song reminds us all to bring the peace that Jesus gives us to the people around us. Sing along with me when you catch on.

AUDIO: "JESUS IS PEACE" / TRACK 8 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "JESUS IS PEACE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"So good, friends. I love that. God sent Jesus for us out of a deep, deep love for us. In Psalm 136:1, we read: 'Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.' (NIV) This song is a celebration of God's love. Let's sing it together."

AUDIO: "ALL ABOUT LOVE" / TRACK 2 FROM CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "ALL ABOUT LOVE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Welcome, everyone—it's so good to be with you again for another month!

"It's probably been a hot second, but do you remember the game 'Telephone'? You know, the one that you played when you were little kids? You'd start by saying something like, 'Jennifer is so cool,' but then it gets passed down the line and it comes out the other end like 'hit me in the face with a ham sandwich'?

"We're going to play Telephone . . . but with a twist. Every time the phrase or words gets passed to the next person, I would like you to also pass along this ball of yarn. Hold on to a part of the yarn and then pass. Everybody keeps holding until we get to the very end. Got it? Let's give it a try.

Whisper a phrase to the first person, holding on to the end of the yarn and passing along the ball. As the phrase gets passed ear to ear, have each person hold onto the yarn and pass the ball.

Depending on the size of your group, you could potentially pass the yarn to everyone. If your group is too large, stop after about fifteen to twenty kids.

"Let's hear what you think the phrase was! (Pause for the reveal)

"Well, that's just ridiculous. That's not what I said at all. Let's try that again, but we'll go a different direction. Don't let go of the yarn! Keep passing it around!"

Do this for a few more rounds. The yarn should be intertwined throughout the group and, if possible, include everyone in the room.

If you've already gotten through your group on the first pass, include Small Group leaders and weave it back through on subsequent passes.

After each pass, reveal the end of the telephone line mixed up phrase, along with the starting phrase to see how well the group did.

After a few more rounds, stop playing the game and continue.

The kids will hold on to the yarn throughout the story.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "As you're holding the yarn, I have a question. Are there people in your lives who you feel connected to? Like, more so than others? Maybe a great friend or you're close with your siblings or parents?"

"Are there some people you have a hard time connecting with? Why do you think that is?"



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“When we read the Bible, we discover God has a plan that includes working to be at peace with everyone and get along with them . . . but that’s not always super easy, is it? We know what we *should* do, but we don’t always know *how* to do it. So, what should we do about that?”

Well, thankfully, when we read something important in the Bible that we know we should put into practice, the writers of the Bible don’t leave us hanging. They also give us some practical ways to live them out and trust God in the process. Let’s jump in.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “One more round of telephone—this time with about five people. You can stay right where you are—I’ll bring things to you!”

Choose five people seated next to one another and bring the dry erase board and marker over to one of them on the end.

“I’ll whisper on this end, and once it’s passed down to the other end, write what you hear on the board. It will be a whole sentence that I’ll send in pieces!

A few words at a time, whisper the following phrase to send down the line.

If possible / live in peace / with everyone / Do that as much / as you can

After it is written, take the marker and survey the white board.

“Any guesses on WHAT this is? A song lyric? A fortune cookie saying? (*Allow a few responses*) Absolutely! This is a Bible verse! Here, let me clean it up a little.

Add punctuation to make it two sentences, and then write “Romans 12:18” above it.

“That’s better. Can we read this all together?”

Lead the group in saying the verse.

“If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can. Romans 12:18 (NirV)

“Excellent! The Apostle Paul wrote these exact words to Christians who were living in Rome. Well, not exactly, it wasn’t in English—but the meaning was the same.

“In fact, Paul wrote several letters to the early churches, and many times those churches were quite a mix of people. Much like here. We have all kinds of people from all kinds of families, backgrounds, and ethnicities. Back then—just like now—there were those groups who maybe didn’t get along so great with one another. The Jews and the Gentiles, the rich and the poor, the healthy and the sick, you name it. But the reason they could come together was because they were now connected by Christ . . . and that was (and is) the most important connection there is!

“Everybody, hold up the yarn for a moment.



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Have everyone hold up the yarn throughout the room. If someone was not a part of it, loop them in.

“Look. We’re all connected! Tall people, short people, girls, guys, some older, some younger. All different, yet all connected. You can lower the yarn.

“For argument’s sake, let’s let the yarn represent peace. There’s peace between everyone here, no one is fighting, everyone is chill. We’re all united—is that fair to say? *(pause)* Okay. Here’s the kicker.

“What exactly is peace? How would you define it?”

Allow for responses.

“Sometimes we think peace is just quiet or calm. After a long day, you might say, ‘I just need some peace and quiet!’ Peace might be a sign of friendship, like a peace offering. Maybe it’s that someone is okay with their circumstance, ‘making peace with the world’ around them.

“Regardless of how you define it, peace is about connection. It’s when our relationships are the way they are supposed to be, the way God intended them to be. Peace is found when we care about other people, rather than finding fault and making them the ‘other side.’

Point to the white board.

“If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can. *(pause)* Hmm. If possible. If possible. That tells us that sometimes it may actually not be possible. There may be someone who comes along and starts a mean rumor about you that isn’t true, and . . .

Take a pair of scissors and cut the yarn.

“Peace. Disrupted. Or maybe someone posts something about you that’s really unfair or embarrassing.

Take the scissors and cut the yarn again, this time in a few different spots, breaking the connection. After a few more cuts, hold two ends up.

“Maybe someone takes something of yours that is really important. Maybe you just need some space, and your siblings won’t leave you alone. Maybe you’ve got a ton of homework and your parents are nagging you to see your latest texts with your friends. In other words, your peace is disturbed.

Drop the ends.

“The connection is gone. *(pause)* Well, now what? What in the world do we do with these broken pieces? What do we do with our broken peace? It’s not like we can fix it! *(pause)* Or . . . can we?”

Point to the white board again.

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



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"In a moment when someone does something mean, or posts, or is loud, or nags . . . we're faced with a choice. Honestly, our instincts are to fire back and make the other person feel as bad as we do. Or to yell louder. Or to slam a door. In fact . . .

Take the scissors and move to cut another piece of yarn again—but stop short.

"We can do a *lot* more damage in that moment if we really want to. But . . . *if possible . . . live in peace with everyone.* Instead of this (hold up the scissors), could I do . . . (*tie a knot, reconnecting the pieces*) this? What could I do, how could I react, what could I say that would mend the broken pieces and heal the broken peace?

"When you start to care more about the other person, searching to find common ground, seeking to understand where they're coming from, it will change the whole situation. Some of you might be thinking, 'Okay, maybe I could do this once. But you don't know my little brother. Once is about *all* I can handle!' But did you see the next part of the verse? '*Do this AS MUCH as you can.*'

"We are being told to . . . do this over and over and over again. As much as you can.

Move to the different places that are cut in the yarn and tie them back together.

"A kind word. A conversation. A deep breath. An honest admission. An apology. The more and more we do this . . . the more and more we can live like this! Hold up the yarn once more.

The yarn is all connected again.

"Let's say this verse all together one more time. (*Together*) '*If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can.*'"

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "It would be nice to say that we always live in peace with everyone, all the time, and nothing ever goes wrong. Unfortunately, we're all people. And people are emotional. We argue. We disagree. We fight. Our peace gets broken. Sometimes it's our fault, and sometimes it is not.

"Regardless, we can always ask ourselves a simple question. What's possible right now for me to do? How can I help make peace? Am I making it better or making it worse? For example, if someone is saying nasty things to us or about us, it won't make peace if we try to one-up them. In that moment, we have to take a step back, breathe, and ask, 'What is it possible for me to do right now?' Maybe I need to go talk to an adult. Maybe I need some time alone with my thoughts. Maybe I need to go for a walk and get some air.

"And here's the thing, the more we start to do this . . . to make peace and live in peace, the more we will be the kind of people who want to do this as much as we can. Why? Because we'll discover that it's so much better to live our lives in peace."

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to your Small Groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION



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SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP