



WEEK  
**THREE**  
MARCH 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

## Communicator Guide

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**The Peacemaker**  
Abigail Intervenes  
1 Samuel 25:1-35

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you be a peacemaker?

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can help others make peace.

### 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 3

**Key Question: How can you be a peacemaker?** It's one thing to SAY that peace is important. It's another thing to actively work toward making peace. As kids go about their day, we hope they learn to stop, look around, and see how they can help make peace between people they know who are experiencing an argument.

In **1 Samuel 25:1-35**, we find a story about a woman named Abigail. We read how King David was furious with a man named Nabal who had mistreated his men. David decided to get revenge . . . until Nabal's wife, Abigail, intercepted him, apologized, and offered gifts as a way to make peace. Even though Abigail wasn't responsible for her husband's offense, she realized that she could play a role in making peace

**Bottom Line: You can help others make peace.** Peace is often about helping stop an argument before it can escalate into something worse. It takes time and energy to act as a peacemaker between other people, but God can give us the strength to help others make peace. For kids, this might mean getting the help of an adult who can calm down a situation. Sometimes an outside perspective is what someone needs to see a peaceful solution to an argument they're having. We pray that God will give kids wisdom to see how they can step in and help make peace.

### LANDING

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

#### SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

**"How can you be a peacemaker?** How can you be a bridge between two people or groups that are separated or at odds? What things can you say or do that will help bring the peace instead of making things worse? Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to give us wisdom to be the peacemakers he calls us to be! 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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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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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:** "Hey, everyone! We're back at it again this week. I can't wait for you to see what we have in store. And it all starts with a pretty big challenge that we're calling, "Plug It In!"

**SLIDE: "PLUG IT IN"**

I need three volunteers!

*Choose three volunteers. Have the volunteers join you at the front next to the huge pile of tangled extension cords. Alongside the tangled cords is a plug-in lamp.*

"As you can see, I'm not the best at storing extension cords. You think this is bad, you should see my Christmas lights. Not a great scene.

"Your goal is simple! You just need to plug in the lamp and then plug in an extension cord into the wall and have it light up! However . . . this wouldn't be [Name of Environment] if there wasn't some crazy twist!



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"You can't untangle the cords. You can't test each one, and you can't plug all three in at the same time. Rather, you need to figure out which plug will light the bulb on the first try by trying to follow it in the mess! Another twist is that you each have to pick a cord. Two of you can't pick the same one. When you think you have it, tell me which one you think it is. We will then plug them in one by one and see who's wrong . . . and who's lit.

*Play the challenge. Encourage volunteers to figure out the correct cord by tracing back the cord without untangling. After each volunteer selects a cord, plug the lamp into each cord one by one to reveal the correct one!*

*"(After the game) I'm definitely calling you all in December. My Christmas tree is a mess. Well done! In the meantime, let's stand together and worship!*



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## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "i, everyone! It's the BEST to sing praise to God with all of you. I'm so thankful that Jesus is our Friend. There is no one like Him! This song says, 'Jesus, You have been so faithful. Jesus, You have been so true.' Come on and sing with me.

**AUDIO:** "FRIEND LIKE YOU" / TRACK 5 FROM THIS LOVE

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "FRIEND LIKE YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"That's right! God's love never stops. God's love is never-ending. There's nothing like it. Let's continue to unite our voices and worship God together. Come on, everybody!

**AUDIO:** "YOUR LOVE" / TRACK 7 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "YOUR LOVE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"I am filled with joy when I think about God's love for us. Listen to David's words to God from Psalm 23:6: *'I am sure that your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. And I will live in the house of the LORD forever.'* (NirV) We can have true peace because we know that we are children of God. And because of that, we can worship God with the way we live, every day of our lives. Lift your voice and sing this."

**AUDIO:** "YES I AM" / TRACK 5 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** "YES I AM" 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, once again, to my favorite time of the week! We're continuing to explore the mighty power of peace . . . and this week is going to require everyone's help in pulling it off.

"Before we get into it, I've got a fun challenge. Take a look at the screen and see if you can be the first person to tell me what these items are called. Call out the answer if you know it!

SLIDE: INTRO 1: LIGHTNING CABLE

"Okay, that one was pretty easy, right? It is a charging cable for a smartphone. How about this?"

SLIDE: INTRO 2: WI-FI ROUTER

"Something you might complain about more than you know . . . a WIFI router! If you like the internet, you are grateful for this little device here. What's this?"

SLIDE: INTRO 3: ETHERNET CABLE

"Guessing you might struggle with the actual name here. It is an ethernet cable. It hard wires your computer to your router, or to a plug in the wall. Another way to get online!

SLIDE: INTRO 4: VELCRO

"Yep, it's Velcro®. One more!

SLIDE: INTRO 5: MASKING TAPE

"You got it! Masking tape.

"Hmm. We had a charging cable, a WIFI router, and ethernet cable, Velcro, and masking tape. What do all of these have in common?"

*Pause for responses.*

"Yes! They all connect things to other things! The cable connects to a phone. The router and ethernet cable connect your laptop or iPad to the internet. The Velcro and masking tape connect things and hold them together."

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Connections are great. When things are connected, like your phone to WIFI, life is good and things run smoothly. What happens, though, when the internet goes out? When the WI-FI stops working? Some of us lose our minds in frustration.



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“Bad connection. Connection dropped. No longer connected. It doesn’t just happen with the world wide web; it also happens with people. Have you ever seen a bad situation where that kind of disconnection happens? Maybe your friends argue and you get in a fight and you stop talking to each other. Maybe a text or a Snap got misinterpreted and now things are super awkward.

“What do you do when that happens? That’s a tough question. Miscommunication, bad connections, or downed power lines are no joke. Thankfully, we know where we can go for help. (*Hold up the Bible*) The Bible! Remember, the Bible was written by actual people who had some personal experiences with God and were inspired to write about their experiences so people like us could learn to trust God with our lives. Let’s find out some truth from the Bible right now.”

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “We’re heading back into what we call the Old Testament in our Bible. These books were originally part of the ancient Jewish Scriptures where we can find out more about God’s people and the plan God had to rescue the world through them. And today we head back to the time in history when Israel was ruled by kings. All the way back to the first king of Israel. Anyone know his name, by chance? (*Responses*) That’s right, Saul. Impressive!

“But here’s the real question . . . does anyone know who the second king of Israel would be? Who was next in line after Saul?”

*Pause for responses. Prompt if you have to.*

“David, yes! David is a pretty popular character in the Bible, so you might already know a few things about him. If not, here’s a refresher.

“David was a shepherd, a boy with a sling; he fought a giant of a man named Goliath. That ring any bells? He watched over flocks of sheep, but he was also chosen as a military leader in Saul’s army. One day David was anointed as the next king of Israel, but that wasn’t the day he became king. It just meant he had been chosen to eventually be king someday. In fact, these events sort of triggered some negative effects in his life, because the actual king, Saul, became really jealous of David and attempted—multiple times—to take David out. To put him six feet under. Fit him with a pair of cement shoes and take him for a long walk off a short pier.

“Saul wanted to kill David before he even got a chance to take the throne. Not a good situation, I think you’d agree. Death is bad, especially if you’re alive.

“In our story, David and his men are on the run as he is in that in-between time of being told he would be king, but had not actually taken the throne yet.

*Open the Bible 1 Samuel 25:2-3a (NirV) and read.*

*“A certain man in Maon was very wealthy. He owned property there at Carmel. He had 1,000 goats and 3,000 sheep.*

*“Side note, that’s a lot of animals to clean up after. Yikes.*

*“He was clipping the wool off the sheep in Carmel. His name was Nabal.*

*“Everybody say ‘Nabal!’ (pause for the response.)*



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"And in just a moment, you will learn what his name means and see how he lives up to the meaning of his name.

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:3b (NIRV) and read.*

*"His wife's name was Abigail. She was a wise and beautiful woman.*

*"Everybody say 'Abigail!' (pause for the response). And we'll see her live up to her name too!*

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:3c (NIRV) and read.*

*"But her husband was rude and mean in the way he treated others. He was from the family of Caleb.*

*"Uh oh. Not cool, Nabal. I think you can see we might have a little trouble on our way. Meanwhile, David was staying nearby in the desert—he had heard about Nabal and his massive amount of goats and chickens. In fact, Nabal's shepherds had been out near David's men, tending to their flocks.*

*"I don't know if you know, but living in the desert is hard. And hot. And it's especially difficult when you're in the army or, in David's case, in charge of a bunch of army men. They like and NEED to eat and drink water to survive—which is hard because the desert is constantly trying to kill you with its blazing sun.*

*"That's a lot of responsibility for David! He's in charge, so it's on him to take care of these men. After hearing about Nabal's wealth and livestock, David sent ten men to ask Nabal a simple request.*

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:8b-9 (NIRV) and read.*

*"Please be kind to my men. Please give me and my men anything you can find for us.' When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal the message from David. Then they waited.*

*"David is hoping that Nabal will help him care for his men.*

*"But will he? Won't he? What will he do? We're not sure, so we're going to play a little game called . . . (game show voice) 'What Happens Next?'*

**AUDIO: GAME SHOW MUSIC**

**SLIDE: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

*"After receiving the message, do you think Nabal said . . .*

**SLIDE: ROUND 1: OPTION A**

*"A. 'YES, take all you want,' and provided a luxurious buffet for David and his men.*

**SLIDE: ROUND 1: OPTION B**

*"B. 'MAYBE, but first I have to check to see if I have enough groceries.'*



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**SLIDE: ROUND 1: OPTION C**

"Or C. 'NO, who is David anyway? Not my problem . . . that's who!'"

"What do you think happened next? A, B, or C?"

*Allow for responses.*

*(Still affecting a game show host voice) Before I reveal the answer, let's show them what they win!!*

*Gesture wildly to the side of the stage, but nothing happens.*

*Gesture wildly again, and the Worship Leader or Host comes out and whispers in your ear.*

"Oh. *(pause, dropping the voice)* Nothing? They get . . . nothing? Huh. That stinks. *(back to game show host voice)* Well, kids, did you learn anything about Nabal earlier? Maybe something that will help you pick the correct answer?"

*Pause for responses.*

"Right! He is wealthy! But also right, he is 'rude and mean in the way he treated others.' This is not a nice guy. I told you earlier that he'd live up to his name . . . and Nabal means 'foolish one.'"

"The answer was in fact C . . . he said NO WAY. Check this out."

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:10-11 (NIV) and read.*

*"Nabal answered David's servants, 'Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are running away from their masters these days. Why should I give away my bread and water? Why should I give away the meat I've prepared for those who clip the wool off my sheep? Why should I give food to men who come from who knows where?'"*

"Wow. What a piece of work."

"And that's a pretty bold move, calling the future king of Israel a runaway servant! And even though he clearly has plenty, he refuses to help David or his men. David and his men had shown kindness and protection to his men and flocks, but it didn't matter. This guy is mean! And like his name . . . he is being quite foolish."

"Now, how do you think David responded to this? Or should I say . . . *(game show voice)* 'What Happens Next?'"

**AUDIO: GAME SHOW MUSIC**

**SLIDE: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

"Does David..."

**SLIDE: ROUND 2: OPTION A**





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"A. LAUGH off Nabal's response and begin looking elsewhere for food and water.

**SLIDE: ROUND 2: OPTION B**

"B. Grab his harp and pour out his feelings in a sad song.

**SLIDE: ROUND 2: OPTION C**

"Or C. Get really angry and prepare to attack that foolish dude!

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:13a (NIRV) and read.*

*"David said to his men, 'Each of you put on your swords!' So they did. David put his sword on too. About 400 men went up with David.*

"Whoa. Sounds like David is ready to attack! But there's one more person in this story. Remember Abigail?"

"Now, don't forget about Abigail. Anybody remember what we learned about her earlier?"

*Pause for responses.*

"Right . . . she was wise and beautiful! I think we need a little wisdom in this moment. One of the servants catches wind of David coming up with all of these men to confront Nabal, and he runs off to tell Abigail everything that is happening, what her foolish husband has done, and how things are about to get ugly.

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:14-17 (NIRV) and read.*

*"He said, 'David sent some messengers from the desert to give his greetings to our master. But Nabal shouted at them and was rude to them. David's men had been very good to us. They treated us well. The whole time we were near them out in the fields, nothing was stolen. We were taking care of our sheep near them. During that time, they were like a wall around us night and day. They kept us safe. Now think it over. See what you can do. Horrible trouble will soon come to our master and his whole family. He's such an evil man that no one can even talk to him!'*

"I can't help but wonder . . .

**AUDIO: GAME SHOW MUSIC**

**SLIDE: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

**SLIDE: ROUND 3: OPTION A**

"Does Abigail 'A. Catch the next camel out of town and never ever come back again.'"

**SLIDE: ROUND 3: OPTION B**

"Does she 'B. Grab her bo staff and nunchucks and prepare to fight against David and his 400 men.'"



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**SLIDE: ROUND 3: OPTION C**

"Or does Abigail 'C. Go on a shopping spree!"

"Which do you think?"

*Pause for kids to respond*

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:18 (NirV) and read.*

*"Abigail didn't waste any time. She got 200 loaves of bread and two bottles of wine. The bottles were made out of animal skins. She got five sheep that were ready to be cooked. She got a bushel of grain that had been cooked. She got 100 raisin cakes. And she got 200 cakes of pressed figs. She loaded all of it on the backs of donkeys.*

"Abigail goes on a crazy shopping spree of sorts, gathering all sorts of food and drinks! I wonder why she did that. What do you think?"

*Pause for responses.*

"Turns out she was just in time. While Abigail was traveling toward David, David was readying his men to travel to Nabal. And he was fired up.

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:21 (NirV) and read.*

*"David had just said, 'Everything we've done hasn't been worth a thing! I watched over that fellow's property in the desert. I made sure none of it was stolen. But he has paid me back evil for good.'*

"And David was going to make him pay for his unkindness!"

"Just then, Abigail arrived with all of the supplies. She bowed low to the ground and apologized for her foolish husband.

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:26 (NirV) and read.*

*"She said, 'Sir, the Lord has kept you from killing Nabal and his men. He has kept you from using your own hands to get even. So may what's about to happen to Nabal happen to all your enemies. May it happen to everyone who wants to harm you. And may it happen just as surely as the Lord your God and you are alive.'*

"Abigail continued on, saying that God would truly bless David in the future and that he doesn't need this incident on his mind. Instead, he should trust God and the promises that he has already made to him.

"As David listened to Abigail, I really started to wonder . . .

**AUDIO: GAME SHOW MUSIC**

**SLIDE: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

"That's right! What Happens Next?"



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**SLIDE: ROUND 4: OPTION A**

“Does David ‘A. Take the food but still go and attack Nabal for being the foolish guy that he is.’

**SLIDE: ROUND 4: OPTION B**

“Does he ‘B. Get sick from eating too many raisin cakes and miss his chance to get sweet, sweet revenge.’

**SLIDE: ROUND 4: OPTION C**

“Or does David ‘C. Listen to Abigail’s wisdom and turn from his anger.’

“Yeah, I think you can tell where all of this is going . . .

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:32-33 (NirV) and read.*

*“David said to Abigail, ‘Give praise to the Lord. He is the God of Israel. He has sent you today to find me. May the Lord bless you for what you have done. You have shown a lot of good sense. You have kept me from killing Nabal and his men this day. You have kept me from using my own hands to get even.’*

“David realized that Abigail had been a peacemaker. Without her, things would have gotten pretty ugly.

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 25:25 (NirV).*

*“Then David accepted from her what she had brought him. He said, ‘Go home in peace. I’ve heard your words. I’ll do what you have asked.’*

“As for the fool—I mean Nabal—he is still a mean old guy. But because of Abigail, at least he is a mean old guy who is still alive.”

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “It’s interesting to think about what might have happened in this story if Abigail hadn’t intervened. I mean, David was really upset about the way he and his men were treated, and he was prepared to take matters into his own hands. Rightfully so—David was kind, needed help, and Nabal turned him down flat and was a total jerk about it.

This whole situation was headed toward a terrible collision. But Abigail did something really difficult. She stood between two parties that were divided and found a way to make peace. She was the bridge that brought together two people who were separated. This is no small thing.

“Have you ever caught on to some tension flaring up between a couple of your friends? And in that moment, you can say things to make things worse by picking a side. ‘Oh yeah, they always act like that!’ or ‘But did you hear when they said *this*?’ and then pretty soon what was just a little spark explodes into a full-blown fire.

“Or, in those moments, you can be the peacemaker. ‘Are you sure that’s what they said?’ ‘What if we talk about it together?’ You can be the bridge to peace, just like Abigail.

“Wise and beautiful.”



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## LANDING

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

### SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

**"How can you be a peacemaker?"** How can you be a bridge between two people or groups that are separated or at odds? What things can you say or do that will help bring the peace instead of making things worse? Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to give us wisdom to be the peacemakers he calls us to be! 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.*

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

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**