

WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on how Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and to be in relationship with God. Thank God for this peace. Pray that the kids in your group would be open to finding peaceful solutions to the problems they face. Pray for opportunities for them to become peacemakers in their relationships with others.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Peacemaker
Abigail Intervenes
1 Samuel 25:1-35

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought offerings to place them in the offering container.
- Instruct a few kids to stand at the front of the room to be "pickers."
- Direct the rest of the kids to sit down, close their eyes, put their heads down, and put their thumbs up in the air.
 - Share that no peeking is allowed!
- Instruct the "pickers" at the front of the group to silently walk around and choose one kid's thumb to tap.
- Direct each "picker" to choose only one thumb.
 - Make sure it's a different thumb than the other pickers.
- When a kid's thumb is tapped, direct them to put it down, indicating they've been picked.
- When all "pickers" have chosen a kid, instruct the "pickers" to line up at the front of the group and say, "Switch On!" so everyone knows to open their eyes.
- Direct the kids who have their thumbs down to take turns guessing which "picker" picked them.
- Continue playing, choosing new "pickers."
- Remind kids to try to pick kids who haven't been picked yet!

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.



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MADE TO MOVE

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



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2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Small balls, cups or baskets, and coins

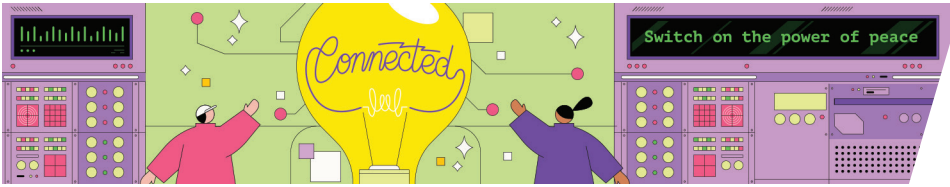
WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams, as even as possible.
- Instruct each team to form a line, standing shoulder-to-shoulder, with the two teams facing each other.
- Place a cup or basket at the end of each line.
- Give each kid at the end of the line a small ball to hold.
- Stand at the other end of the two lines, designating the start of the line.
- Instruct the kids to hold hands with their teammates and close their eyes except for the first kid at the beginning of each line (the "line leader").
- Give each line leader a coin.
- Instruct each line leader to do a coin toss.
- If their coin lands on "heads", direct the line leader to squeeze the hand of the kid next to them to start the Electricity Dash!
 - If their coin lands on "tails," allow the line leader to continue to coin toss until they land on "heads."
- With their eyes still closed, direct the second kid in line to squeeze the hand of the next kid in line.
- Instruct the kids to continue passing the hand squeezes down the line.
- As soon as the last kid in the line gets their hand squeezed, direct them to open their eyes and toss the ball into the cup/basket. (Allow them to try again, as needed.)
- The team who makes a basket first wins!
- Continue to play as time and interest allows.
- Switch up the lines so there's a new line leader for each round!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"It's fun to play a game together as a whole group! You all did an amazing job working together peacefully, and it was great seeing you have fun—no matter which side you were on. **[Transition] Today, we're going to hear a true story about two people who were on different sides, and someone who helped keep the peace between them. Let's go!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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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 biblical application through role-play and reenactment



* 2. PASS THE PEACE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Small ball or object, "Pass the Peace" Activity Page, music player, and upbeat music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead a game similar to Hot Potato.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one kid in the circle the small ball or object.
- Start playing music.
- Instruct the kid with the small ball (or object) to start passing it around the circle.
- Stop the music.
- When the music stops, read a question from the "Pass the Peace" Activity Page.
- Direct the kid who is holding the ball to respond to the situation by sharing how they could make peace.
- Once the kid has shared a peaceful response, start the music again.
- Continue playing and asking questions from the "Pass the Peace" Activity Page until all kids have had a chance to answer.
 - NOTE: Repeat scenarios, if needed, inviting kids to share another idea.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Those were some great, peaceful suggestions! Have you ever been in a situation similar to one of these? (*Invite responses.*) Yes—me too! Sometimes, I start feeling angry because I want to get my way, but that's not the best response. When people don't see eye-to-eye, you can choose how you respond, and **you can help others make peace.** Even if we're not involved in the conflict, we can thoughtfully help others make peace *before* a big argument starts!"

"Everyone had great ideas on how to help make peace in these scenarios! But what do you do if you don't know how to help make peace, or if you're feeling uncomfortable? (*Invite responses.*) If you're not feeling comfortable, it's best to talk to a trusted adult. We have many trusted adults in our lives! Who's someone you can talk to? (*Invite responses.*) Trusted adults are there to help us whenever we need them—including tricky situations with others. There are times when we all need a little extra help to make peace!"

BASIC TRUTH

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MADE TO CONNECT

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



3. LETTER VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, dry-erase eraser or cloth

WHAT YOU DO:

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

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***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

You can help others make peace.

- Say the verse out loud together several times.
- On the whiteboard, write out the Memory Verse fully.
- Read the verse together as a group.
- Erase one of the words and write the first letter of that word in its place.
- Read the Memory Verse, saying the word in place of its letter.
- Continue to remove a word and replace it with its first letter until the Memory Verse looks something like:
 - For the NIV: I I I P A F A I D O Y L A P W E, R 12:18
 - For the NIV: I I I P A F A I D O Y L A P W E, R 12:18
- Instruct the kids to repeat the Memory Verse a few times, only looking at the letters.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

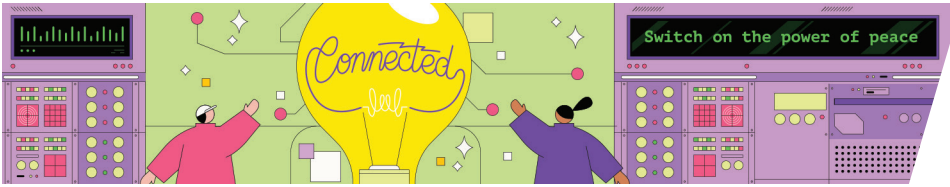
Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This is one of my favorite ways to memorize Scripture! Memorizing Scripture is a great way to remember God's Word when we need it. When you feel conflict or are looking for peace, remember this verse! Like we talked about today, you can try your best to notice when two people aren't seeing eye-to-eye, and **you can help others make peace.**"

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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: "Maze" Activity Page, coloring supplies, LEGO® blocks, music player, and peaceful background music

WHAT YOU DO:

- Designate three spaces in your area for prayer stations.
 - These will be the same stations as Weeks 1 and 2, but with different activities.
- In one station, place the "Maze" Activity Page and the 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, there are no supplies needed. 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, find your way through the "Maze" Activity Page to connect the two people. Ask God to help you make peace with others.
 - **BUILD station:** Using LEGO® blocks, try to build a bridge. Ask God to show you ways you can be a bridge between two people, helping them find peace. Take apart your creation before moving to the next station.
 - **REFLECT station:** (*Leader stays at this station.*) Invite any kids who would like to share something for you to pray about. After any kids who would like to have shared, pray for the kids in this prayer station.
- Play quiet music in the background.
- Instruct the kids to remain quiet 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.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"This month, we've been learning about how to stay connected and switch on the power of peace. One way you can stay connected to God is through prayer, just like you did today! And when you're connected to God, you're also connected to peace. With the help of God's Spirit, **you can help others make peace too.** Let's pray.

"God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who has made a way to have a relationship with You. Thank You for the peace we're able to have when we experience a relationship with You. Help us see where we can create peace—in our families, in our schools, and in our communities. And give us the strength to ask for help when we need it. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to share the mazes they solved to connect two people and share how they learned how they can help people who are in conflict make peace.