



WEEK TWO – MARCH 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Abram + Lot | Genesis 13:5-18*

Bottom Line: *You can show you care by letting go of what's fair*

Memory Verse: *"If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can." – Romans 12:18 NIRV*

Virtue: *Peace – Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument*

Basic Truth: *I should treat others that way I want to be treated*

Series Overview: Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God's heart. Even though people chose to break their relationship with God, God made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. And because we reflect God's image, making peace with others should be a priority for us as well. That's why we're taking the first three weeks of March to highlight some passages and stories about peace to help kids understand more about how they can be peacemakers in their world.

Bottom Line: **You can show you care by letting go of what's fair.** Sometimes creating peace with someone means giving up what might seem most fair to you. It takes a strong person to have the self-control to make a compromise and walk away. We pray that kids will learn how they can choose peace when it would be easier to argue and fight.

9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain + taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Floor tape “Best of the Best” Activity Page

What You Do:

- High-five kids + welcome them by name as they arrive
- Create a tape line on the floor in the middle of your SG space, long enough for all the kids to stand on
- Instruct the kids to stand on the line of tape
- Refer to the “Best of the Best” Activity Page + present the two options by asking: “Which is best: _____?”
- Assign a different option for each side of the tape line
- Instruct the kids to think of their responses, count to five, and then move to one side or the other of the tape line to “vote” for which one they think is best
- Encourage kids to give a high-five to the other kids who end up on the same side
- Instruct the kids to move to the tape line after they’ve high-fived the kids on their side
- Repeat until all of the options on the “Best of the Best” Activity Page are read.
- Come up with a few options of your own, if time and interest allow

What You Say:

“Wow, we learned so much about each other today! And it’s clear that we all have a lot of strong opinions on what we think is best. I do too! I know that when we feel strongly about something, it can be hard to let go of those feelings.

***[Transition]* Today, we’re going to hear about someone from the Bible who cared more about another person’s feelings than his own. Let’s go!”**

9:15 - 9:45 | 11:15 – 11:45 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: For Week Two, we head to **Genesis 13:5-18**. We read how Abram and Lot’s herdsman were arguing because there wasn’t enough land for both men’s herds. Abram chose to make peace with Lot by letting Lot choose the land he wanted. Abram could have taken the best land for himself, but instead, he trusted God and allowed Lot to decide.

9:45 – 10:05 | 11:45 – 12:05 | SMALL GROUP

To Peace Or Not To peace

[Live For God | Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play + reenactment

What You Need: “To Peace or Not To Peace” Activity Page; poster board; markers

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of 3 or 4
- Give each group a card from “To Peace or Not To Peace” Activity Page, a poster board and markers
- Direct each group to read the scenario on the card
- Instruct the kids in each group to talk about what it would look like if they responded to the scenario in two different ways: (1) without peace + (2) with peace
 - As kids are working and talking together, walk around and listen to make sure the “without peace” scenarios are appropriate
- Ask each group to use the markers to draw a picture on both sides of their poster board

- On one side, instruct them to draw a picture of how someone might respond if they weren't showing peace, and instruct them to draw a picture on the other side of the poster if they were showing peace
- One at a time, invite each group to share their scenario and drawings with the rest of the kids

What You Say:

*“You all gave really thoughtful ideas to every single scenario! It shows that how we respond to situations can change everything—most importantly, we have a choice to make peace or not. When we put aside what we want, we have a chance to show that we really care about others. Sometimes, it’s more important to put what we want aside in order to do something kind for someone else. After all, **you can show you care by letting go of what’s fair.**”*

“But sometimes, something isn’t fair and it needs to be made right. There are some situations where it’s important not to just let it go, but to talk to a trusted adult right away. If someone is being hurt, if someone is being made to feel scared, or if someone is in a situation that’s unsafe, it’s important to tell someone. God has given us safe, trusted adults in our lives to walk with us and help us in these types of situations.”

Electric Telephone

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others + build on their understanding

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Instruct the group to sit in a circle and for you to join the circle yourself
- Make sure each kid has a Bible
- Together, look up Romans 12:18 following the Bible Navigation Tips below:

- ***Finding Verses w/ 2nd + 3rd Graders:*** *Guide the kids 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.*
- Read the verse aloud a few times together
- Instruct the kids to close their Bibles
- Whisper the first half of the Memory Verse to the kid sitting next to you in the circle on your right
- Instruct the kid sitting on your right to whisper what they heard you say to the kid on their right
- Direct the kids to continue sharing the first half of the verse around the circle
- When the first half of the verse travels around the circle to the last kid, instruct them to say what they heard out loud
 - If the kid repeats the first half of the verse correctly, celebrate!
 - If the kid repeats the first half of the verse incorrectly, review the first half of the verse together
- Repeat the process with the second half of the verse
- Once the entire verse has been shared, challenge the kids to see if anyone can say the whole verse by themselves!

What You Say:

“That was so much fun! I love times when we can stay connected with each other. When we work together and care about each other first, we’re doing exactly what our Memory Verse says! We’re having fun and living in peace with each other, as much and as often as we can.

*“That was a fun game, and may have gotten a bit silly. But this verse can remind us to care more about others than winning a game. As much as we can, we can choose peace when we’d rather choose what’s fair for us. Remember, **you can show you care by letting go of what’s fair!**”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application

What You Need: Paper; coloring supplies; LEGOs; markers

What You Do:

- Designate three spaces in your SG area for prayer stations
 - These will be the same stations as Week 1; but, with different activities
- In one station, place several sheets of paper + coloring supplies. This will be the Create station
- In another station, place the LEGOs. This will be the Build station
- In the third station, place several more sheets of paper + the markers. 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 something that you love. Maybe it’s a favorite toy, sport, pet, or food. As you do, talk to God about how you can share what you love with other people in your life.
 - **BUILD Station:** Using LEGO® blocks, build a shape of a heart. As you place the blocks, thank God for all of the things you are grateful for. Ask God to help you care for these things well. Take apart your creation before moving to the next station.
 - **REFLECT Station:** Make a list of the five people you see most (parents, siblings, friends, teacher, coach, bus driver, etc.) Put your

finger on each name and thank God for that person. Ask God for help to make peace and treat them the way we would want to be treated.

- 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

What You Say:

*“It’s wonderful to spend time with God. We can talk to God and listen to God’s words in the Bible or from the people God has put in our lives. When we spend time with God, we can remember that choosing peace helps us care for others better. And remember, **you can show you care by letting go of what’s fair.**”*

“God, thank You for putting so many wonderful people in our lives. Show us how to treat them the way You want us to treat them. Help us to remember that it’s more important to make others feel cared for instead of getting what we want. And God, give us opportunities to practice peace this week. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show them the posters their group worked on during the To Peace or Not to Peace Activity.