



WEEK THREE – MARCH 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Abigail Intervenes* / 1 Samuel 25:1-35

Bottom Line: *You can help others make peace*

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 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. 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.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines + working as a group

What You Need: Ping Pong Ball; Cups; Coins

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive
- 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 ping pong 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 + 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 + toss the ball into the cup (allow them to try again, as needed)
- The team who makes a basket first wins!
- Continue to play as time 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!**”

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

Large Group Overview: 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

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

Letter Verse

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles; Whiteboard; Dry-Erase marker; Dry-Erase cloth

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible
- Together, look up Romans 12:18, using the Bible Navigation Tips below
 - **Finding Verses w/ 2nd + 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.

- Say the verse out loud together several times
- On the white board, write out the memory verse fully
- Read the verse together as a group
- Erase one of the words + write the first letter of that word in it’s place
- Read the memory verse, saying the word in place of it’s letter
- Continue to remove a word + replace it with its first letter until the memory verse looks something like:
 - For the NIRV: I P L I P W E D T A M A Y C R 12:18
- Instruct the kids to repeat the memory verse a few times, only looking at the letters

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.**”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Maze” Activity Page; coloring supplies; LEGOs

What You Do:

- Designate three spaces in your SG area for prayer stations
 - These will be the same stations as Week 1 + 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 LEGOs. 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.
- 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:

*“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.