



WEEK ONE – MARCH 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Live In Peace With Everyone | Luke 10:25-37*

Bottom Line: *Make peace whenever you can*

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: 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.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: Bubbles; Socks

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
 - Make sure to add them to your roster on the Roster Sheet located on your clipboard
- Blow some bubbles
- Invite the kids to jump to pop them
- After a few rounds, call out different body parts (elbows, head, fingertips, nose, foot, etc.)
- Challenge kids to pop the bubbles using the body part you called out
 - Make sure the kids are spread out in your SG area
- Blow bubbles all around your SG area to avoid any collisions
- Pass out socks and invite the kids to wear a sock on one hand
 - Blow the bubbles
 - Challenge the kids to catch a bubble on their hands + hold it without allowing it to pop for five seconds

What You Say:

“Great job, everyone! That was a lot of fun. *[Transition]* “***Today, we’re talking about peace. Let’s go find out what God has to say about making peace with everyone.*”**

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

Large Group Overview: 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.

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

Making Peace

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bible (Romans 12:18); butcher paper; colored pencils; markers

What You Do:

- Give a volunteer the Bible
- Invite them to open the Bible to Romans 12:18
- Read the verse aloud for the group
- Give each kid a colored pencil
- Set out the butcher paper
- Instruct the kids to gather around the butcher paper
- Encourage the kids to draw a picture of a time this week when it was hard to keep the peace
- If the kids are struggling for ideas, prompt them with:
 - Maybe they argued with a friend or maybe they got really mad at a brother or sister

- Name places they went this week (home, school, ball field, friend's house, etc.) or activities they might have participated in (ball game, dance recital, playing at the park, birthday party, etc.) to get them thinking about possible situations
- As the kids draw, read the verse again
- As kids finish, set the markers for them to color their drawing as you talk about the verse
- Review the who/why/when/where for Romans 12:18
 - Who wrote this verse? (*Paul*)
 - Why? (*to explain what it looks like to follow Jesus*)
 - When? (*this verse is part of a letter Paul wrote after he started following Jesus. He traveled around telling people about Jesus and starting churches*)
 - Where? (*Paul wrote the letter of the book of Romans to a group of Jesus-followers in a city called Rome – some were Jewish, and some were non-Jewish, so they followed different traditions + didn't always agree*)
- As the kids finish, instruct them to put down their writing utensils and look at their drawings
- Ask:
 - In this situation, did you try to find peace? Why or why not?
 - If you did, how did that help? If you didn't, what happened?
- Instruct the kids to grab a marker
- Ask kids to think of a person who's hard to make peace with
- Direct the kids to write the first letter of that person's name near their drawing
 - Encourage them to sound it out or provide help where needed
- In the center of the butcher paper, write the word "PEACE" in large block letters
- Discuss the following questions:
 - What does Paul tell us in Romans 12:18? (*to live in peace with everyone*)
 - Does "everyone" mean the people in these drawings?

- Does “everyone” include the people represented by the letters you wrote down?
- Set the butcher paper aside to save for the Pray/Dismiss the activity

What You Say:

“Today’s verse reminds us that when it’s possible, we should live in peace with everyone. We should choose peace as much as we can. That means that sometimes, we need to let go of what we want. We might need to let someone else go first. Or share. Or stop ourselves before we say something unkind that we don’t mean.

*“Keeping the peace means stopping to listen and understand. But one really important thing to remember is that God will help! When you follow Jesus, God promises that the Holy Spirit who lives with us will help us keep the peace. So, if you find yourself in situations like the ones you’ve drawn, ask God to help you **make peace whenever you can.**”*

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example about a time when you chose to keep the peace, even when you were mad or frustrated. How did God help you in that moment to make that choice when you may have felt like reacting in the opposite way?)

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Butcher paper from Making Peace activity

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to around the butcher paper, making sure NOT to sit in front of their own drawing
- Remind the kids that God will help them **make peace whenever you can**

- Encourage the kids to take a look at a picture in front of them and spend some time asking God to help the kid who drew it do all they can to make peace this week
- Close your group time in prayer

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for loving us and for helping us every day. This week, when we’re in situations where we’re frustrated or angry and we REALLY want our own way, help us to stop. Help us to take a moment to calm down and then work to make peace whenever we can. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to share that we learned to make peace whenever you can + to hand out this month’s Parent Cue cards!