



WEEK ONE – MARCH 2024 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *Why is it important to 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: Why is it important to make peace? Preteens are just becoming aware of the complexities of getting along with others. They may wonder if the work it takes to make peace with their friends, classmates, or teammates is worth it. We hope that talking through the importance of peace will be a great start in helping them see how they can choose peace in their relationships with others.

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: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Direct the kids to sit in a circle, on their knees, placing both hands flat on the floor in front of them
- Instruct each kid to take their right hand and cross it over the left hand of the kid to the floor
- Direct the next kid in the circle, moving clockwise, to tap their hand once on the floor
- Instruct the kids to continue tapping hands around the circle in a clockwise direction
- Once the taps have gone around the circle, pause the game
- Explain that as the tapping continues around the circle, anyone can choose to tap their hand twice, instead of only once.
 - When someone does this, it reverses the direction of the tapping
- Resume the game and try out this added rule
- After a few minutes, pause the game once more
- Challenge the kids to try to keep the circuit of tapping moving as seamlessly as possible
 - Explain if anyone hesitates or flinches when it's their turn to tap, that person will have to remove that one hand, placing it behind their back and then the tapping will start over
- Continue to play the game, keeping the circuit as steady as possible
- As the kids get the hang of things, challenge them to speed up the circuit
- The last kid (or last few kids) with a hand in the circle wins the game
- Play again if time allows

What You Say:

“Great job! In this game, we definitely had to work together to keep our circuit of hands moving. Whenever someone hesitated or flinched, it caused a disconnect in the circuit. *[Transition]* Today, we’ll see what the Bible has to say about how we should do everything we can to stay connected. Let’s go to Large Group!”

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

Bible Story Extension

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Circuit Story” Activity Page; “Circuit Story Leader Guide” Activity Page; yellow highlighter/marker

What You Do:

- Spread out the “Circuit Story” Activity Pages around the floor of your group space (not in sequential order)

- Explain the kids will work together to put the pieces in story order and that the lightbulb is the final piece
- Ask for a volunteer to start the circuit
- Instruct them to look at all the pieces on the floor and choose which piece explains what happened first
- Once a kid has selected a piece, hand them the roll of tape
- Instruct them to use the tape to hand the page on the left side of the wall in your group space
 - If you do not have a wall nearby, just lay them out in order on the floor
- Ask for another volunteer to continue the circuit by choosing the second page + hang it directly to the right of the first piece
- Continue until all eight circuit pieces have been placed (see the “Circuit Story Leader Guide” Activity Page for the answer key)
- Invite any kids in the group to indicate if they think any pages have been placed incorrectly
- Choose a volunteer to hand up the final piece at the end of the circuit, which displays a lightbulb and this week’s Bottom Line
- Remind the kids that when Paul wrote this letter to the Romans encouraging them to live in peace, he understood that this was difficult to do
 - But, he also knew how powerful it was to live in peace, rather than tension + conflict
- Choose one more volunteer to use the yellow highlighter or maker to color in the lightbulb on the last piece of the circuit
- Explain that peace is like the light bulb
 - It takes all the pieces of the circuit to work together to power it on
- Ask:
 - Have you experienced any situations recently where you had to make peace? If so, would you like to share them with the group?
 - What are some ways you can stop + make peace when you’re in the middle of a conflict?

Discussion Questions

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Do you feel stressed when you're in conflict with someone?
 - Who are some people who are hard for you to have peace with?
 - Is it challenging to make peace with someone else?
 - Why is it important to make peace?
 - Does making peace always mean you have to give up what you want?

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Prayer Switch” Activity Page; markers

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit together
- Ask:
 - Is anyone experiencing a situation in your life where you need peace?
 - If so, how can we pray for you?
- Invite any kids who would like to share
- Hand each kid a “Prayer Switch” Activity Page
- Set out the markers
- Invite the kids to use the supplies to decorate their light switch plates
- Encourage the kids to write: “Switch on the power of peace” somewhere on their plate

- Encourage kids to take their light switch plates home and invite the kids to hand it on the wall next to a light switch
- Close your group time in prayer, making sure to pray specifically about any of situations that may have been shared earlier

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share their light switch plates and hand out this month's Parent Cue cards!