

Small Group Leader Guide

April 11, 2021 Week 2

K3

Today's Bible Story: Give Me Peace on Earth (Live in Peace with Others) • *Colossians 3:15*

Today's Bottom Line: We can make peace with others.

Monthly Memory Verse: *So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.* Romans 14:19 (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: 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.

What You Need:

- “Peaceful Actions Motions” Activity Page, “Peaceful Actions Cards” Activity Page
 - Use the screen share function of your meeting software to show kids the “motions” page.
 - If possible, print the “actions” page or have it available to view on a different electronic device.

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, transition into the activity below.

Activity:

What You Do:

- Use the screen share function of your meeting software to show kids the “motions” page.
- Guide the group through the motions, letting them practice each one a few times.
- After everyone gets the hang of the motions, choose a scenario from the “peaceful actions” page and read it out loud to the group.
- Direct the kids to decide which of the PEACE-ful motions to do in response to that situation and lead them to do that motion.
- Continue until you've gone through all of the scenarios.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “We can make peace with others in a lot of different ways. We can show how much we care for our friends, family, and neighbors by the things we say and do, and even by our attitude.

“Our Bible Story reminded us that we are all part of one body and should be at peace with the other parts. That means that we are all a part of the same team. With God's help, we can really

act like teammates, every single day. We can think about what's best for others instead of only what's best for us.

“When is the last time you made peace with someone? What had happened? How did you feel before and after? (*Invite kids to respond and react positively no matter how small their “peacemaking” seems.*)

“When we all act like one body, like we’re a part of the same team, **[Bottom Line] we can make peace with others.** We can choose from any of these PEACE-ful actions and decide that peace with our family, friends, and neighbors is worth working for!”

Close your group in prayer:

“Dear God, thank You that **[Bottom Line] we can make peace with others** because You first made peace with us. Please help us this week to make peace with those around us in all of these different ways that we’ve planned. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Small Group Leader Guide

April 18, 2021 Week 3

K3

Today's Bible Story: War and Peace (Isaac's Wells) • *Genesis 26:1-6, 12-22, 26-31*

Today's Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.

Monthly Memory Verse: *So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.* Romans 14:19 (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: 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.

What You Need:

- Ask families to make sure kids have paper and markers or crayons before they join the meeting.

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, transition into the activity below.

Activity:

What You Do:

- Guide kids to review and retell the story by drawing individual scenes/plot points and then showing the group what they've drawn.
- If you have older kids, they can open their Bibles to Genesis 26 and use it as a guide as they draw their scene.
- For the most part, let kids choose which parts of the story they draw.
- You'll probably have a lot of kids drawing Isaac as he walks away from one of the wells. Prompt kids to decide which drawing is the first time, second time, etc.
- Below are a few ideas for what kids could illustrate from the story:
 - Isaac with lots of farmland and animals
 - Abimelek telling Isaac to move, the first time
 - Isaac and his crew digging their wells
 - Abimelek telling Isaac to move again
 - Isaac moving, with all the herds and people
 - Isaac's crew digging wells a second time
 - Philistines commanding Isaac to move for a third time
 - Isaac and Abimelek making peace and having a feast

What You Say:

“The Philistines filled Isaac’s wells with dirt then took two wells from him! Was that fair? *(No!)* Isaac could have chosen to fight the Philistines, but instead he chose to stay strong and walk away—THREE TIMES IN A ROW! And because Isaac chose not to fight, God blessed him with peace. God wants us to make peace, too. One way we can make peace is to walk away from a fight. Sometimes that can be really hard, but God can help us.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you chose to walk away from a fight. You may have ignored someone who teased you, kept quiet when someone called you a name, or not argued when your brother or sister took something that was yours. If possible, tell them how God helped you walk away and how walking away showed God’s love to the other person.)

[Bottom Line] “You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.”

Close your group in prayer:

“Dear God, thank You for reminding us through the story of Isaac that our relationships with others are WAY more important than winning an argument or fight. Help us have the assurance that You see our peace-making efforts and honor them, even when we don’t always see immediate results. Help us practice the action word we each chose this week to prove we care more about others by walking away from a fight. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



**Putting
someone
else first**



**Expecting
the best from
someone**



**Acting with
kindness**



**Communicating
clearly**



**Elevating
friendship**

Your friend wants to play a game that you aren't that good at. You decide to give it a try together. **(Elevating friendship)**

You're next in line for the restroom when a parent rushes in with a toddler. You let them cut in front of you—it looks like an emergency! **(Putting someone else first)**

The neighborhood tough guy is walking up your sidewalk! You decide to open the door and greet him politely. **(Expecting the best from someone)**

A person in your class keeps flicking your arm in the hallway and you do not like it. You tell the teacher then also tell your classmate to please keep their hands to themselves. **(Communicating clearly)**

The vending machine at the car repair shop gives you two sodas! You bring one to your dad, who is really stressed about fixing the car. **(Acting with kindness)**

Your little sister got invited to a birthday party at the same time you'd planned to meet your friends at the basketball court. Your mom asks you to walk your sister to her party even though it cuts into your game time. You say "sure thing" and don't even complain about it. **(Acting with kindness)**

Your classmates are all talking about the new substitute teacher who starts tomorrow. They heard he's really strict and mean. They're planning a big prank to show him they're not afraid of him. You tell them to hold off and see what he's like tomorrow. Maybe he's not that mean—maybe he just acts like that because the kids aren't that kind to him. **(Expecting the best from someone)**

A friend asks which game you want to play together online. You ask for the game that you actually like to play instead of trying to impress them with something cooler. **(Communicating clearly)**

Your friend had to stay home for a long time while he was sick. You promised to check out the new skate park together and a group of kids are going tonight. You decide to wait for your friend to get better then go in a couple of weeks. **(Elevating friendship)**

You let your sister shower first at night even though she takes a long time. **(Putting someone else first)**

What to Do:

Print and cut apart one set for each small group.

Small Group Leader Guide

April 25, 2021 Week 4

K3

Today's Bible Story: The Peacemaker (Abigail Intervenes) • *1 Samuel 25:1-35*

Today's Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.

Monthly Memory Verse: *So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.* Romans 14:19 (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: 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.

What You Need:

- “Abigail Intervenes” Activity Page; either printed or pulled up on a device that you can hold up for kids to see during the Small Group meeting

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, transition into the activity below.

Activity:

What You Do:

- Show the “Abigail Intervenes” illustrations as you retell the key points of the story (see below), pausing after each point.
 - Either show kids a printed version of the pictures, pull them up on a different device and hold them up to your camera, or use your meeting software's screen-sharing feature.
- If the person's actions showed care for others, kids stand and give a thumbs-up.
- If the person's actions didn't show care for others, kids squat and give a thumbs-down.
- Read each point slowly to enhance comprehension, but maintain a quick pace between points to keep interest high.
- If time allows, play again and quicken your pace.
 - (*Show picture 1*) David and his men went down to the Desert of Paran, near the land of a wealthy man named Nabal. While they were there, they helped keep Nabal's shepherds safe.
 - (*Show picture 2*) One day, David sent his men to ask Nabal if he would be kind and give them some food. Nabal—who was rude and mean—replied, “Why should I give food to THEM?”
 - (*Show picture 3*) When David heard what Nabal had said, he was ANGRY. He chose 400 men, and they headed towards Nabal's home, looking for a fight.

- *(Show picture 4)* A servant told Abigail, Nabal's wife, what her husband had done.
- *(Show picture 5)* Abigail—who was wise and kind—quickly gathered food, loaded it on donkeys, and went to meet David. Abigail apologized for Nabal's meanness.
- *(Show picture 5)* David accepted Abigail's gifts and told her to go home in peace.

What You Say:

“When the servant told Abigail that her husband had been mean and rude to David’s men, Abigail worked quickly to help make peace. What did she do to help make peace? *(She apologized for Nabal being rude and mean. She gave food to David and his men.)* If Abigail hadn’t done something, David and his men might have fought Nabal and his servants. People would have gotten hurt. But Abigail cared about others, so stepped in to help make peace. She was part of the solution.

[Bottom Line] “**You can show you care about others by being part of the solution, too.** You can help others share. You can help others take turns. When someone isn’t nice, you can say, ‘Hey, that’s not nice.’ And, like the servant, you can ask others for help when the problem is too big for you.

“So this week, remember that **[Bottom Line]** **you can show you care about others by being part of the solution.**”

Close your group in prayer:

“Dear God, thank You for reminding us to do all we can to live in peace. We need Your help to work on *(pause and ask kids to silently insert the trait they feel they need to develop)*. Help us do everything we can this week to show we care about others by being part of the solution, even if that means that we have to give up something. We want to be peacemakers. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



What to Do:

Print on cardstock. Provide one set for each small group.

"Abigail Intervenes" Activity Page 1/5

April 2021, Week 4, Virtual Small Group K-3

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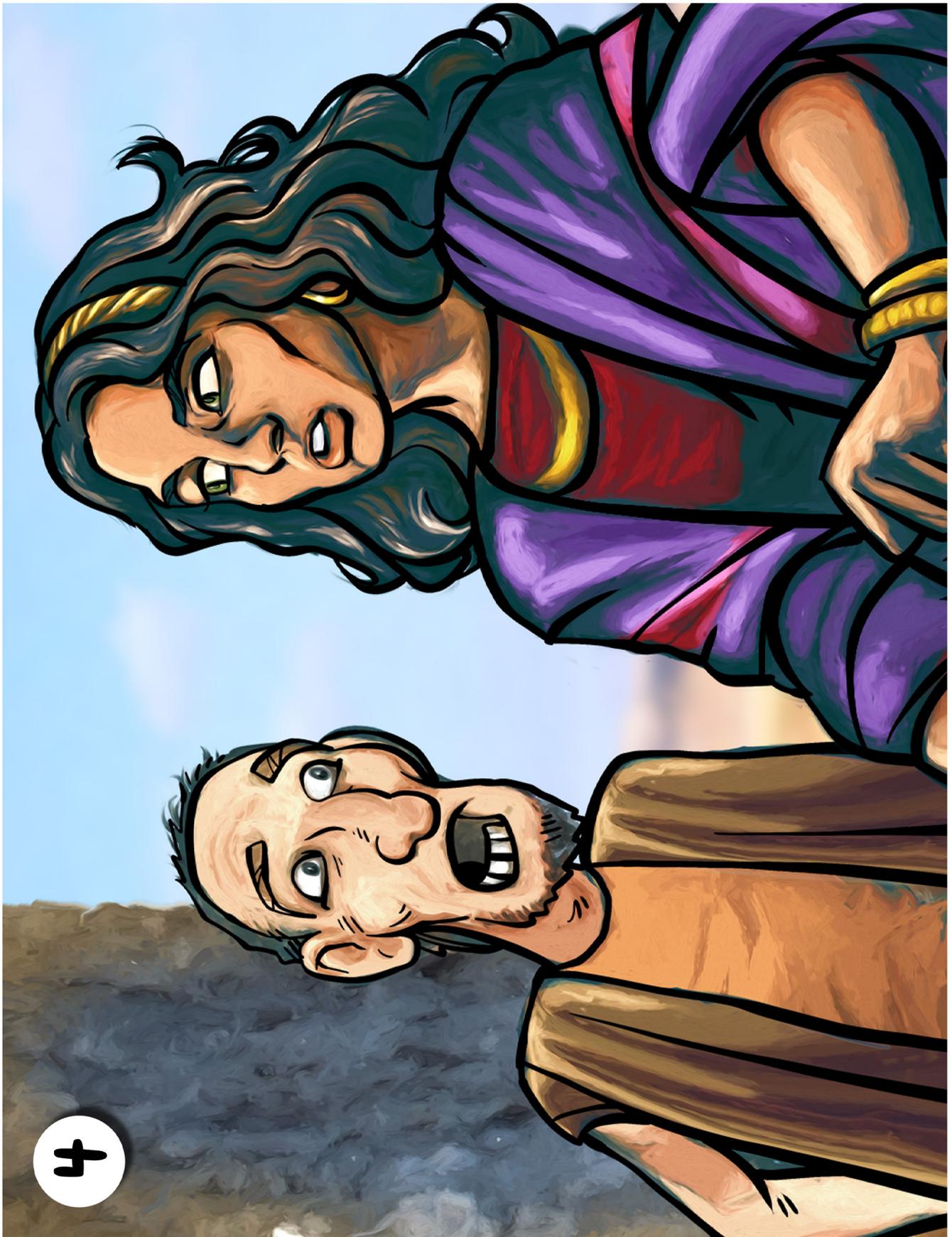
What to Do:
Print on cardstock. Provide one set for each small group.



3

What to Do:
Print on cardstock. Provide one set for each small group.

"Abigail Intervenes" Activity Page 3/5
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What to Do:
Print on cardstock. Provide one set for each small group.

"Abigail Intervenes" Activity Page 4/5
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What to Do:
Print on cardstock. Provide one set for each small group.

"Abigail Intervenes" Activity Page 5/5
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Small Group Leader Guide

April 11, 2021 Week 2

Preteen

Today's Bible Story: Give Me Peace on Earth (Live in Peace with Others) • *Colossians* 3:15

Today's Bottom Line: We can make peace with others.

Today's Key Question: Who do you need to make peace with?

Monthly Memory Verse: *So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.* Romans 14:19 (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: 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.

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, transition into the activity below.

Activity:

What You Do:

- Pair a couple kids up to play "Rock, Paper, Scissors, Peace."
 - Kids make a fist and pound it into the other hand as they say, "Rock, Paper, Scissors, Peace."
 - As they say "Peace," they make a rock (a fist), paper (an open hand with palm facing the ground), or scissors (make a "v" or a "scissor" with their index and middle finger).
 - Rock beats scissors, scissors beats paper, paper beats rock.
- After the first pair plays, choose another pair to play. Then choose another pair, until all kids have had a chance to play.
- Then pair up two of the winners from the first round.
- Continue pairing up the winners to play until all winners have had a chance to play a second game.
- Do the same with the winners of the second round, pairing them up, one group at a time.
- Continue this way until you end up with your Ultimate Rock Paper Scissors Peaceful Champion!

What You Say:

- Ask:

- How could a game of “Rock, Paper, Scissors, Peace” could help you live in peace with someone?
- If needed, prompt by asking: Two friends disagree about whose turn it is to go first. How could a game of Rock, Paper, Scissors help them to live in peace?
- Ask kids to give an example of people we need to live in peace with. (*parents, brothers, sisters, teachers, etc.*)
- Challenge kids to dig deeper by asking: What about someone who disagrees with you? Would they be an example of someone we need to live in peace with? Why or why not?
- Ask for a volunteer to read Colossians 3:15 (today’s Scripture) out loud for the group.
- Unpack the verse by asking:
 - How can remembering that we are part of a whole collection of believers help you work toward peace with others?
 - What do you think being thankful has to do with peace? How can remembering to give thanks to God help you to show peace to others?
 - What is something you can do to live in peace? How does our attitude affect whether we live in peace with others?

Close your group in prayer:

“God, Thank You so much for Your peace, for showing us how much You care for us by sending Jesus so we can be with You now and forever. God, we know there are times when it’s difficult for us to live in peace with others. There are people in our lives who frustrate us or annoy us. Help us to show peace, especially to (*pause and prompt kids to silently fill in the name of the person they need to make peace with*). God, we know that You will help us make peace with the people we just thought of. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

Small Group Leader Guide

April 18, 2021 Week 3

Preteen

Today's Bible Story: War and Peace (Isaac's Well) • *Genesis 26:1-6, 12-22, 26-31*

Today's Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.

Today's Key Question: When should you walk from a fight?

Monthly Memory Verse: *So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.* Romans 14:19 (NIV)

Monthly Life App: 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.

What You Need:

- Ask families to have a few items kids can toss, and a container for those items. (e.g., balled-up socks and a laundry basket, large marshmallows and a kitchen mixing bowl, ping pong or tennis balls and a laundry basket or empty storage tub)

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, transition into the activity below.

Activity:

What You Do:

- Play a quick game to get kids up and moving.
- Instruct them to get their "tossing supplies" and container.
- Tell them they're going to try to be the first person to successfully toss six items (or toss an item six times) into their container, from about 10 feet away.
- The catch is that they have to do this from three different positions, just like Isaac had wells/land in three different locations.
- They'll start in the first position, 10 feet away from their container, and toss two items.
- Then they should move to another position, staying 10 feet away from their container, but at a different spot or different angle.
- Continue until they've tossed two items from that third position.
- The first person to make it back to their device and yell "Dig those wells!" is the winner!
- (Tell kids they're on the honor system. If you choose, ask parents/other adults to monitor the game from their in-person location, to make sure their kid is following the rules.)
- If kids have less than six of their tossing items, they can simply retrieve them from the container or floor nearby whenever needed.

- After the game, guide the group to retell the story in their own words, going around with each kid adding one sentence to the synopsis.
- If they have Bibles nearby, let kids open them to Genesis 26 so they can make sure they cover all the details.

What You Say:

Ask:

- How did Isaac and his servants keep the peace by walking away from a fight?
- *Read Genesis 26:16.* How does this verse describe Isaac? (*powerful*)
- So if Isaac was powerful and he had done nothing wrong, why do you think he moved? (*This is an opportunity to talk about how walking away from a fight doesn't mean you are weak.*)
- How do you know when you should walk away from a fight?
- How can you peacefully disagree with someone? (*This allows for the discussion that we can disagree with people and still care about them. It is when winning the argument is more important than caring for the person that the disagreement become "un-peaceful."*)
- What can you do when you try to live in peace and it still seems like things aren't peaceful?
- Is there ever a time when you *shouldn't* walk away from a fight? (*Ask kids to give an example if they say yes. Ask "why not" if they say no.*)

Close your group in prayer:

"God, as we learn about Isaac today, we realize sometimes walking away from a fight is the way to live in peace. It is hard to do that, especially when we think we are right. God, help us to see people and situations the way You see them. Help us to remember how important peace is to You. Peace is so important You sent Jesus to show us how to live in peace with one another and to give us a way to live with You, in peace, now and forever. In Jesus' name we pray! Amen!"

Small Group Leader Guide

April 25, 2021 Week 4

Preteen

Today's Bible Story: The Peacemaker (Abigail Intervenes) • *1 Samuel 25:1-35*

Today's Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.

Today's Key Question: What are ways you can be a peacemaker?

Monthly Memory Verse: *So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.* Romans 14:19 (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: 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.

What You Need:

- Ask families to provide small items kids could use to spell out the word “peace.” They can use dry spaghetti or penne pasta noodles, mini marshmallows, LEGO® bricks, or even just little scraps of paper.

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled.
- After the Bible story video, transition into the activity below.

Activity:

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to use whatever items they have to spell out the word “peace.” (They should be shaping the letters using the small items, not writing the letters on the actual items themselves.)
- As they work, engage them in a conversation about this month's topic of peace, today's story, and how God wants them to be a peacemaker.
- When kids finish spelling “peace” using their various supplies, give them a few moments to show the group what they made and what supply they used.

What You Say:

Ask:

- What is a peacemaker?
- Who were the peacemakers in the story? What makes them peacemakers?
- Who were not peacemakers? Why don't you consider them peacemakers?
- What about the servants who told Abigail about David's plan? Were they trying to be part of the solution or were they trying to cause unnecessary drama? What is the difference

between helping and creating drama? *(This is an opportunity to talk about the motivation behind their actions.)*

- What if two friends are in a fight. You didn't cause the fight or make it worse. How are you supposed to respond? What's your responsibility in terms of peacemaking? *(This could prompt discussion that there are times you aren't the cause but you can still be the part of the solution. It doesn't mean it's easy, but it's what we should do as followers of Jesus.)*
- What are some ways we can be a peacemaker? *(If necessary, provide a scenario: If someone is giving you the silent treatment, what could you do to be a peacemaker? What if you are watching a show and your older brother walks in and switches what you're watching—what could you do to be a peacemaker?)*

Close your group in prayer:

- Lead kids in prayer by saying:
 - Option1: God, You are the God of peace, and it is Your desire that we do what we can to live in peace with each other. Help us to be peacemakers by *(encourage kids to take turns listing ways they can be a peacemaker. Fill in a couple ideas if kids are quiet/shy/etc.)*
 - Option 2: God, You created us in Your image, and You have given each of us gifts and talents. Some of us are good at making others laugh, and some of us are great at building others up. Some of us love to sing *(fill in specific gifts kids in your group have)*. God, help us to use these gifts to be peacemakers and to be part of the solution. In Jesus' name we pray! Amen.