

City SG - March 17-18, 2018

Bible Story: Give Peace a Chance (Abigail Intervenes) • 1 Samuel 25:1-35

Bottom Line: Prove you care more about others by being part of the solution.

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)

1. Fill-in-the-Blank

What You Need: Bibles, "Fill-in-the-Blank Verse" Activity Page, markers

What You Do:

- Pass out the Bibles. Help kids look up Romans 14:19 in pairs and read it aloud together.
- Give each child an Activity Page. Point out the blanks on the page.
- Instruct the kids to use the markers to fill in the blanks with their own names, and change the word WE to "he/she" accordingly.
- Give the kids a few minutes to decorate their verse sheets with the markers.

What You Say:

"I think each one of us can do all we can in our homes, in our classrooms, on our ball teams, and in our neighborhoods to live in peace. I'd like for you to take this verse home and put it somewhere in your room so that you can see it every day as a reminder this week to **[Bottom Line] prove you care more about others by being part of the solution.**"

2. Total Concentration

What You Need: Jenga® game, smartphone timer

What You Do:

- Gather the kids around the game provided.
- Play the game as per instructions BUT use the timer so that each player only has 15 seconds to complete his/her turn. (Start the timer as soon as the game moves to the next player, so kids feel the effects of the time limit by having less time to think about their moves.)

What You Say:

"How did it feel knowing you had only a certain amount of time to complete your turn? Would it have made a difference if we'd played this game without a time limit? (*Pause for responses.*) [Jenga] is hard enough without adding the extra pressure of a time limit! That time limit pressure made you feel stressed and anxious.

[Transition] It's hard to have peace when we're anxious or worried, isn't it? But real peace IS possible, no matter what is happening around us."

3. A Way for Peace

What You Need: White paper, Two "Folding Instructions" Activity Pages (per group), pens, markers

What You Do:

- Hand out a piece of white copy paper to each kid.
- Look up and read Colossians 3:15. Explain that these verses remind us that **we can make peace with others because God made peace with us.**
- Use the instructions and pictures on the "Folding Instructions" page to guide the kids to fold and make one cut to their pages to create a cross.
- If time allows, let the kids write out Colossians 3:15 in the center of their crosses.

What You Say:

"What is the ultimate reason we can have peace? Because God made peace with us. How? Through Jesus! God sent Jesus to take the punishment for the wrong things we do by dying on the cross for us. But He didn't stay dead. Through Jesus, God brought peace to our hearts because Jesus rose from the dead three days later. We'll celebrate that amazing event NEXT week on Easter! Let's take these crosses home as a reminder that **we can make peace with others because God made peace with us.**"

4. Verse Pairs

What You Need: "Paired Up Verse Cards" Activity Page, Bibles, smartphone timer

What You Do:

- Pair kids up and give each pair a Bible and one verse card.
- Explain that you would like each pair to use the table of contents at the front of their Bibles to look up the verse, read it together, and answer the questions below. (These questions are written on the card along with their scripture reference too):
 - What is this verse saying?
 - How can knowing this truth help me this week?
- Before they start, give each group a different amount of time to complete the task.
 - For instance, assign the first pair closest to you three minutes, another pair five minutes, another two minutes, another NO time limit, etc.)
- Time the groups and let them know when their time is up, based on the allotted times you've assigned.
- Gather everyone together and let them share their verse and quick answers to the two questions.

What You Say:

"For those groups that had less time than others, how did that make you feel? (*Pause for responses*) There's a tension there—almost like the pressure you felt to finish this task quickly. And in life, we all know what it feels like when we don't have peace, right? There's a sort of tension that's there that can lead to fighting or conflict. Well, God knows all about that. And He doesn't want that for us. So He made a way for us to have peace—real peace—through Jesus."

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: "Fill in the Blank Verse" page from previous activity

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to hold their pages from the previous activity.
- Guide them to repeat the verse as they read it from the page.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for reminding us to do all we can to live in peace. Help me and help each one of these awesome kids to do everything we can this week to **[Bottom Line] prove we care more 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 so much. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."