

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

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.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give kids opportunities to be peacemakers. Pray that He would help them know when and how to be part of the solution when it comes to conflict. And pray that God would guide your conversation with your few as they navigate applying today's truths.

1. Early Arriver

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

What You Need: Offering container, hand sanitizer, timer or phone, bell or buzzer

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct the kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Ask the kids to form groups of three.
- Tell the kids that you will ring the bell every 45 seconds.
- Instruct the kids to form a new trio with different kids when they hear the bell.
- Tell the kids that they will have 45 seconds to discuss within their trio, the question you ask.
- Ask the following questions or make up your own questions.
 - Would you rather have a broken toe or a broken finger?
 - What are you more scared of, snakes or spiders?
 - Who in your life is the easiest person to talk to?
 - Imitate a cartoon character.
 - Describe with a sound how much you like math.

2. Opening Activity

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

What You Need: Paper plates, painter’s tape, and blindfolds

What You Do:

- Create a bridge by taping two parallel lines on the floor, about three feet apart.
 - The length of the lines can be from 10 to 20 feet, depending on your preferences and amount of time for the activity.
- Place the paper plates in random spots between the two tapelines. This is your “minefield,” and the plates are the “mines.”
- Ask the kids to pair up and stand on the left side of the bridge.
- Tell the kids that each team will take turns walking across the bridge.
- One of the kids will wear a blindfold while the other kids guide them with verbal cues to the other side of the bridge.
- If the blindfolded kid steps on a paper plate mine or over/off the bridge, the team is out.
- Ask the kids to switch places after round one.

What You Say:

“You did a great job listening and communicating to keep each other safe and out of harm’s way!

[Transition] Let’s hear about someone who did the same thing to keep everyone safe and out of harm’s way. I can’t wait for you to hear all about it.”

PLAY BIBLE VIDEO

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

*1. React or Respond

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Scenario” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Assign one team to be “Team React” and the other team to be “Team Respond.”
- Unpack what “react” and “respond” mean and how they are different.
 - Reacting usually involves acting without thinking.
 - Taking time to respond gives your mind time to think about how to be part of the solution.

- Pause after sharing each scenario to give the teams time to brainstorm.
 - Instruct “Team React” to brainstorm one idea on how the scenario could be handled poorly and end in a bad argument or fight.
 - Instruct “Team Respond” to brainstorm one solution on how the scenario could be handled well and lead to a peaceful ending.
- Give each team a chance to share their idea before sharing the next scenario.
- Switch teams midway through sharing scenarios to give everyone a chance to experience being part of a solution, i.e. Team Respond.

What You Say:

“In all of these scenarios, you had a choice. You could make things worse by reacting or making a hasty decision, which would ultimately end in a bad fight or argument. Or you could be part of the solution to make sure the situation doesn’t turn into an argument or fight. Can you think of some ways you can be part of a solution? (*Pause for responses.*) Those are great thoughts! Maybe you can help others see a different perspective so they can find common ground, or you can help brainstorm solutions that they might not have considered. Maybe you can muster up the courage to ask someone who is reacting to cool off.

“We face situations every day where we can choose to react or respond. We have the power to either make things worse or better! God wants each one of us to be like Abigail in today’s story. **[Bottom Line]** You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.”

[Make it Personal] (*Share a time when you had a conflict with someone and instead of wasting energy on proving you were right, you chose to find a solution that would satisfy everyone. Maybe you made a compromise or just apologized. Whatever the case, help kids see the solution part of your example.*)

2. Peril

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

What You Need: “Answer Cards” Activity Page, “Question Cards” Activity Page, “Point Cards” Activity Page, “Reference Sheet” Activity Page, “Game Assembly” Activity Page, clear tape, Bibles, and markers

What You Do:

- Using the “Game Assembly” Activity Page instructions, set up the game before the kids arrive.
- Tape the game board to the wall where it is visible to the group.
- Ask kids to get into groups of three or four (or divide the group into three teams).
- Give each team blank sheets of paper and a marker.
- Share that you will play a game similar to Jeopardy™.
- Explain how to play the game.
 - Point out the three categories: David, Abigail, and Nabal.
 - Under each category there are different questions related to that person, and each question is assigned a different point value.

- Teams will take turns choosing a category and the point amount. You will then reveal the corresponding question and read it off of the Reference Sheet.
 - Each team will have 30 seconds to write their answers on the paper provided.
 - Let teams quietly and quickly look up the answer in the Bible if they can't recall the answer from memory. (Because the questions are "backward," you may need to repeat the questions a couple times and emphasize the underlined words on the question card, so that kids know what the subject of the answer is and what type of answer you're looking for.)
 - When time is up, all the teams should hold their paper in the air.
 - Teams with the correct answer will get the assigned points.
 - Teams with the incorrect answer will lose points.
- At the end of the game, whatever team has the most points wins.

Note: There are 18 questions total. You do not have to go through all of them, if kids start to lose interest. If you choose to stop the game, inform kids that you'll be stopping in two rounds (or three, depending on what you choose), so that teams can choose point categories accordingly.

What You Say:

"I just love this story. I love how Abigail saw the problem and worked quickly to find a peaceful solution. She knew that fighting wasn't the answer. Sometimes when we think we're right, we keep pushing to make our point. But peace is about finding a way to fix the problem.

"Peacemakers are problem solvers, just like Abigail. What did she do to be part of the solution? (*Pause for responses.*) She was creative, wasn't she? This week, let's remember **[Bottom Line] you can show you care about others by being part of the solution.**"

3. Color by Number Verse

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

What You Need: "Coloring by the Numbers" Activity Page, markers

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to recite the memory verse a few times together.
- Pass out the "Hidden Verse Coloring" Activity Pages and markers.
- Instruct the kids to follow the key provided to color their page.
- While they color, encourage kids to color this month's verse in such a way that it really stands out.

What You Say:

"Wow! You did a beautiful job coloring! The bridge and this verse are great reminders that we should do everything we can to build each other up instead of tearing each other down.

"When you build each other up, **[Bottom Line] you can show you care about others by being part of the solution.** Like Abigail, God has designed all of us to be creative problem-solvers. We can be

part of the solution in our homes, in our classrooms, on our sports teams, and in our neighborhoods. I'd like for you to take this verse home and put it somewhere in your room or on the bathroom mirror to remind you that God wants you to be a peacemaker everywhere you go."

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to share one characteristic they think makes a good responder so they can be part of the solution to bring peace.
- Close by inviting the kids to silently reflect on one thing they could work on to be part of the solution in situations they face.

What You Say:

"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."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show them their "Hidden Verse Coloring" pages.