

April 2021

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 Theme: Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Week 1

Today's Bible Story: Alive (Easter) • *Colossians 1:20 and John 20:1-18*

Today's Bottom Line: God made peace with us.

1. God Made Peace with Us

What You Need: "Bible Verse Strips" Activity Page, Bibles, prepared plastic eggs, upbeat worship music, small bags

What You Do:

- Help kids look up and "read" the memory verse using the Bible navigation tips below.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word "Romans" at the top of the page as you say, "Romans." Then guide kids to find the big number 14 (1 and 4) on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 14 for the little 19 (1 and 9); this is the verse number. Tell kids to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show kids what the page looks like.) When kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Romans in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Romans starts with the letters R-O. When the kids find Romans, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Romans. Help kids find the page. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 14. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 19 in chapter 14. Read the verse aloud together, guiding kids to point to each word as you read.

- Unpack the truth that God did everything HE could to be at peace with us by sending HIS OWN SON to live on Earth, die on the cross, and come back to life so that we can live forever with Him—and live in peace!
- Help kids get into pairs. If you have a mix of ages, pair older kids with younger ones.
- Scatter the eggs around your environment.
- At your signal, guide each team to find ten eggs—numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.
- Play the fun worship music while kids search.
- When every team finds all ten eggs, guide kids to open them, take out the memory verse strips, and put the strips in order.
- Read the verse aloud, guiding kids to point to each strip as you read it.
- Let kids divide the candy. They can eat it there during Small Group time or take it home in the bags.

What You Say:

“How did God make peace with us? (*He sent Jesus.*) Yes! **[Bottom Line] God made peace with us** when He sent His own Son, Jesus, to live on Earth, show us how to live, die on the cross, and come back to life. Because of Jesus, we can have peace with God and live forever with Him!

“And since **[Bottom Line] God made peace with us**, He wants us to make peace with others. Because when we do that, we show others that we love them and that God loves them, too. So remember that **[Bottom Line] God made peace with us**. And how did God make peace with us? (*He sent Jesus.*) Yes! He made peace with us through JESUS!”

So let us 1

do all 2

we can 3

to live 4

in peace. 5

And let us 6

work hard 7

to build up 8

one another. 9

Romans 14:19, NIV 10

What to Do:

Print on colored paper and cut apart. Provide one set for every two kids.

"Bible Verse Strips, NIV" Activity Page

April 2021, Week 1, Small Group K-1
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Week 2

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.

1. The Power of Peace

What You Need: Whole milk or half and half, disposable bowls, liquid food coloring, craft sticks, liquid dish soap, portion or 2-ounce cups, large container; and trays, plastic tablecloth, or tarp

NOTE: If your environment and the weather permit, take this activity outside.

What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather around you.
- Follow the steps below. Use the conversation and tips in "What You Say" as a guide to help make the truths of the object lesson clear and concrete in kids' minds.
 - Pour milk into a bowl until the bottom is covered to a depth of about ¼ inch.
 - Place one drop of each food coloring (others) in three or four different places near the center of the bowl.
 - Next, dip the end of a craft stick (us) in the soap (God's peace).
 - Place the soapy end of the craft stick in the center of the milk bowl and hold it in place.
 - Be prepared for Ooh's and Ah's as the colors spread and swirl!
- Invite kids to do the experiment, too!
 - Give each kid or pair of kids a bowl.
 - Deter spills by setting each bowl on a tray or the floor covering.
 - Help kids pour milk into their bowls until the bottoms are covered.
 - Show kids how to place a few drops of food coloring near the center of their bowl.
 - Lead kids to dip their craft sticks into the dish soap then into the middle of their milk, holding it in place for a few seconds.
- As kids explore, emphasize the truths that God made us to have peace with Him and He also made us to share His peace with others.
- Pour the colored, soapy milk into the large container when kids finish. If you dispose of the milk by pouring it down a sink, be sure to rinse the drain with plenty of water so the sink doesn't stain permanently.

How does it work? Check out <https://bit.ly/33XEWcC> to watch a video and learn more.

What You Say:

"God made us to have peace with Him. He also made us to share his peace with others. On our own, we tend to do our own thing and want our own thing (*drop the food coloring into the milk*). That keeps us apart, just like these drops of food coloring stay apart in the milk. But when we have God's peace (*dip the craft stick into the soap*), we can share His peace with others (*put the soapy craft stick into the milk and hold it there*). And when we share God's peace with others, amazing things can happen! We can help people grow in God's love and come together. We can make a difference! So remember, when we have God's peace, **[Bottom Line] we can make peace with others.**"

Week 3

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.

1. Peace Is Better

What You Need: Hand sanitizer, small ball

What You Do:

- Help kids apply hand sanitizer.
- Stand in the middle of your environment and guide kids to gather around you. If you have tables or chairs, move them to the side if possible.
- Briefly unpack the truth that sometimes we need to stand up for ourselves and others. Like Isaac, we can also be strong enough to walk away from a fight—even if it means that we don't get what we want. Peace is better for everyone.
- Read a scenario below, then toss the ball into the air.
- Guide kids to quickly walk away from the fight (the ball).
 - Someone makes a face at you in the cafeteria.
 - Someone cuts in front of you in line.
 - At a party, there are four cookies left. The kid in front of you takes THREE!
 - While you're at the park, someone calls you a name.
 - When your sister divides the leftover Easter candy, she takes more for herself and doesn't give you as much as she has.
 - The kid behind you on the bus keeps kicking the seat, trying to annoy you.
 - At recess, someone pushes by you to get the last swing.
- When you catch or retrieve the ball again, call out, "FREEZE!"
- Guide kids to fill in the blanks as you say the Bottom Line :You can show you care about others by walking _____ from a _____. As kids learn the Bottom Line, you can also omit "care" and "others."
- Guide kids to return to the center between rounds.

What You Say:

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

Sometimes that can be hard, but God can help you. You can walk away from a fight when someone calls you a name. You can walk away from a fight when someone cuts in line. And you can walk away from a fight when something isn't fair.

"Now, there are times when you DO need to stand up for what's right. Like if someone is unkind to your friends, if someone is being a bully, or if someone hurts you or someone else. If you aren't sure when to stand up and when to walk away, talk to an adult you trust. They can help."

Week 4

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

1. Be Part of the Solution

What You Need: Praise music and music player or cell phone

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a game of "reverse" freeze tag.
- Guide kids to scatter around your environment, stand with their legs apart, and freeze.
- Start the music then tap a kid on the shoulder, and say, "YOU can be part of the solution!"
- That kid is then unfrozen and can crawl between the legs of another kid and say, "You can be part of the solution!"
- Both kids then crawl between the legs of two other kids and say, "You can be part of the solution!"
- When you stop the music, every kid must freeze again.
- Resume play by starting the music, tapping a different kid on the shoulder, and saying, "YOU can be part of the solution!"
- Add variety by calling out different ways for the kids to move: tiptoe, baby step, slow motion, etc.

What You Say:

"The thing to remember today is that **[Bottom Line]** you can show you care about others by **being part of the solution**. You were part of the solution by helping your friends get unfrozen. You can also be part of the solution when you help make peace. Could you help make peace when two friends argue about what to play? *(Pause.)* Yes, you could say, 'Hey, let's play one game first then the other.' Could you help make peace when someone isn't being nice? *(Pause.)* Yes, you could say, 'Hey, that's not nice' or 'Be kind.' Could you help make peace when your friends aren't sharing or taking turns? *(Pause.)* Yes! You could say, 'Hey, let's take turns' or 'Let's share.'

[Make It Personal] *(Tell kids about a time when you were part of the solution, whether it was by helping two friends get along, standing up for someone who was mistreated, or speaking up for someone who couldn't speak up on their own. Tell how God used your actions to help make peace.)*

"So remember that **[Bottom Line]** you can show you care about others by being part of the solution."