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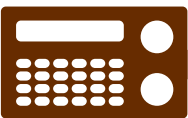
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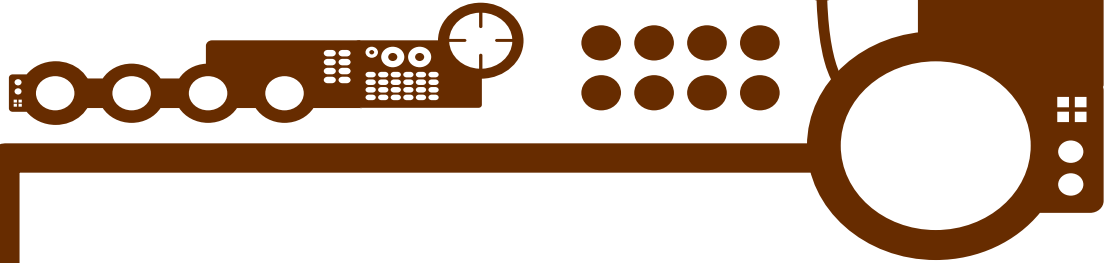
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252 BASICS®

Group and Family Experiences for K-5th Grades



1. I need to make the wise choice.
2. I can trust God no matter what.
3. I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Statement of Faith

ABOUT GOD

God is the one and only true God, yet He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, so everything belongs to Him and is under His control. God is holy, so He is righteous, majestic, and loving. God is all knowing and purposeful, so He's at work to bring about His will. No person, thing, or idea compares to God.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

God reveals Himself to us through the Bible, and it is 100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative.

ABOUT PEOPLE

People are made in God's image and for His pleasure. But everybody falls short of God's intention, or ideal, for people. In other words, everyone has sinned. As a result, we are all separated from Him, even though He wants an intimate relationship with each of us.

ABOUT SALVATION

That's why Jesus—God's Son—came and lived on this earth, died, and rose again. God offers His free gift of salvation to all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior—the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Anyone who accepts this gift is adopted as a son or daughter into God's family and will live with Him forever in heaven.

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Virtue:

PEACE

Proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.

Bottom Line: Just because you didn't start a fight doesn't mean you can't stop it.



Memory Verse: "So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build each other up." Romans 14:19, NIRV



PLUG IN: Focus the Energy

Small Groups, 10-15 minutes

Bible Story:

GIT ALONG!

1 Samuel 25:16-35

PREVIEW

Plug In is designed to introduce children to the day's topic in a setting that gives them individualized attention from their Small Group Leader and plenty of interaction with a small group of peers.

Divide the children by age into groups of no more than 10. You will need one Small Group Leader for each small group. Ideally, assign the same Small Group Leader to the same group of kids for the entire year.

2nd–3rd Grade

FOR LEADERS ONLY

What does it mean to be a peacemaker? It's one thing to keep to oneself, avoiding conflict if at all possible. It's another thing to get involved when others are in a conflict. Sometimes a person on the outside can see a solution easier than those who are in the midst of an argument. (1) Peace is proving that you care more about others than winning an argument. And sometimes peace is caring enough about others to help them find resolutions to their arguments. Abigail was able to help David see a peaceful solution to his problem with Nabal, thus preventing David from committing murder. (2) God is the ultimate peacemaker. We constantly find new ways to disrespect our Creator and we deserve to be punished—right? But instead of giving us what we deserve, God gives us grace, through Jesus and on an everyday basis. (3) God wants us to be peacemakers, too. (4) By helping others resolve conflict, we keep them from possibly doing things they might regret. And if we respond with love, they will see the love of God in us.

GET READY

For each small group, do the following:

- **Early Arriver Idea:** Provide an offering container.
- **Middleman:** Provide a beach ball.



Recycle • Make It Stick
What do you want to make sure they never forget?



Impress • Make It Big
What is the one thing you want them to understand?



Personalize • Make It Real
What can you model for them from your own life?



Apply • Make It Fit
What do you want them to walk away and do?



Transition • Make It Flow
What will you say or do to keep them engaged?



PLUG IN: Focus the Energy

Small Groups, 10-15 minutes • for 2nd–3rd grade

- Gather the leaders together to pray before the kids arrive. Pray that each child would listen and learn the Bible truths presented during today's session. If any kids arrive before or during the prayer, invite them to participate with the leaders.

SUPPLIES:

offering container

Early Arriver Idea

As kids come in, ask them to tell the others three different facts about themselves: about their family, something about school, or about one of their hobbies. Challenge kids to remember at least one fact that someone said about him- or herself. Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container.


SUPPLIES:

beach ball

Middleman (a classroom-wide activity)

Start this game with Small Group Leaders playing against the kids. Choose one kid to stand in the middle between two SGLs. Leaders toss the ball back and forth to each other, trying to keep the middleman from getting the ball. They should try to make it hard on the middleman. After two or three passes, add another kid to the middle, making it two leaders against two kids. Leaders should keep trying to make it tough on the middlemen to get the ball. Continue adding kids to the middle until they have no trouble at all defeating the leaders.

WRAP UP

CLASSROOM FACILITATOR: "That was a fun game! The more of you who got between the leaders, the easier it became for you to beat us!  **Let's go to large group and hear about someone who got in between a couple of people too, and the difference that it made for all of them."**

Lead your group to the large group environment.



Virtue:

PEACE

Proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.

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Memory Verse: "So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build each other up." Romans 14:19, NIRV



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes

Bible Story:

GIT ALONG!

1 Samuel 25:16-35

PREVIEW

Catch On is designed to help kids understand how the day's topic applies to them. They'll discuss real-life experiences, interact with a close-knit group of peers, and participate in a variety of activities that appeal to different learning styles. Life-application and memory-verse activities, as well as prayer, are always a part of this hands-on time.

Gather children into the same small groups as for Plug In. Make sure the same Small Group Leader works with the children.

2nd–3rd Grade

GET READY

For each small group, do the following:

- **Carry On:** Provide one beach ball for every small group. Use tape to mark five bases around the room with as much space between the bases as possible. See diagram below.
- **Run and Write:** Provide Bibles, tear sheets, masking tape, and markers. Tape tear sheets on the wall, side by side, for each small group. *Tip: Tape two tear sheets to the wall for each small group, one underneath the other, to prevent bleed-through onto the wall.*
- **Peace-Full Artists:** Provide copies of "Which Words?" (from the Activity Pages on Web site) and markers, as well as craft supplies like construction paper or colored copy paper, paper plates, feathers, yarn, beads, glitter, scissors, and glue sticks.
- **Where Two or More Are Gathered:** No supplies needed.
- Make copies on cardstock of this week's GodTime and Fridge Door cards.

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activities #1 and #3. Activity #1 is also particularly good for children who need to move in order to stay engaged (not just for boys).*



Recycle • Make It Stick
What do you want to make sure they never forget?



Impress • Make It Big
What is the one thing you want them to understand?



Personalize • Make It Real
What can you model for them from your own life?



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What do you want them to walk away and do?



Transition • Make It Flow
What will you say or do to keep them engaged?



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for 2nd-3rd grade

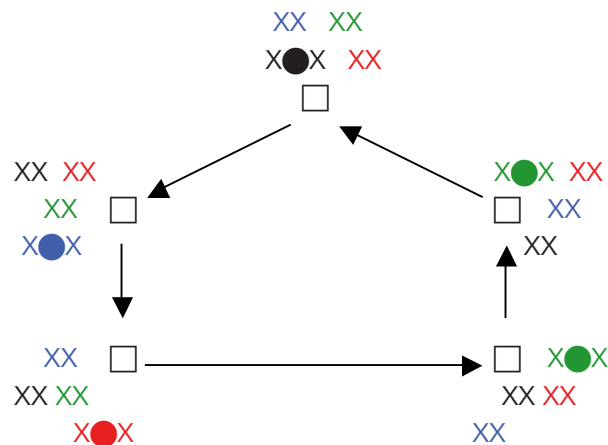
SUPPLIES:

beach balls, masking-tape
bases

* 1. Carry On (a classroom-wide application activity / great for boys)

Direct kids to line up by small groups. Give each team (each small group) one beach ball. Place two kids from each team at each base. In other words, each team will have two players stationed at each base (assuming there are 10 kids in each small group). If you have four small groups in your room, for instance, your set-up could look like this.

XX = 2 kids; □ = base; ● = ball; X●X = 2 kids holding a ball; the 4 colors of XXs represent 4 different small groups



The two players from each team that have the ball will attempt to move their beach ball to team members at the next base without using their hands or feet. (By standing hip-to-hip or back-to-back, for instance.) They will pass the ball to their teammates at the next base (without using their hands). If they drop the ball, they cannot pick it up with their hands. They must use elbows or knees to pick it up, or a Small Group Leader can assist. After passing the ball to the teammates at the next base, partners must wait at that base until they receive the ball again. Players continue around the bases until all the partners make it back to their original bases.

Note: There may be several sets of partners at each base, which could cause confusion and chaos. This is intentional.

CLASSROOM FACILITATOR: "Wow, you guys really hung in there! It was easy to drop the ball, wasn't it? Real life is kind of like that game. It can be



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for 2nd–3rd grade

loud and confusing with lots of different things going on and people moving in different directions, trying to get what they want. When that happens, peace can slip away from you just like a ball in a game. 🦶 **But, God created peace and wants us to live peacefully with other people. Sometimes that requires working hard to make peace with someone who's trying to pick a fight with you or trying to make peace between two other people who are in conflict.** Raise your hand if you know anybody who tends to fight or argue a lot. All of us need to know that **! just because you didn't start a fight doesn't mean you can't stop it.** Just like all of you helped each other get the beach ball around to all the bases, we can help each other to keep peace. When people are living peacefully with each other, it's better for everyone."

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, tear sheets, markers

2. Run and Write (a classroom-wide memory verse activity)

Guide kids to find this month's memory verse, Romans 14:19, in a Bible. (Refer to navigation tips in week 1 if necessary.) Tell them to read the verse to themselves. Ask if anyone has memorized the verse. If so, give them the opportunity to recite it out loud, without using their Bible.

Instruct each small group to line up, one kid behind the other, at the end of the room opposite the wall where the tear sheets are taped. Place a marker on the floor beneath each tear sheet. Explain that kids will take turns running to the tear sheet and writing the next word of the verse on it. For instance, the first runner will write the first word of the verse, then replace the marker on the floor. The second runner will write the second word of the verse, and so forth, until the group has written the entire verse, including the address. Tell them they can help each other in two ways: they can keep their Bibles open to the verse if they want (but the Bible must remain where everyone is lined up), and team members can help each runner know what word to write. The first team to write the verse correctly wins.

CLASSROOM FACILITATOR: "You guys did a great job of helping each other. When you helped the people on your team, you helped them succeed. Being a peacemaker is kind of like this game we just played.

🦶 **When you help someone make peace, whether someone is trying to pick a fight with you or whether the conflict is between other people, you are helping them to succeed in life—you are helping them to do**



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for 2nd–3rd grade

SUPPLIES:

“Which Words?” (Activity Page), markers, craft supplies


what God says to do in our memory verse. So remember, **! just because you didn’t start a fight doesn’t mean you can’t stop it.**”

* 3. Peace-Full Artists (*application activity / Bible lesson review*)

Give each kid an Activity Page and a marker. Guide them to read the instructions on the page and do the activity. Be ready to explain any words on the Activity Page that are unfamiliar to the kids.

Then instruct kids to use the supplies provided to draw, color, or create what they think “peace” looks like. Encourage kids to be as creative as they want. Some may draw a picture of a happy family or a quiet meadow. Some kids may be more abstract with their interpretation of what peace looks like. Tell kids to write the word peace somewhere on their project.

As kids are working on their art projects, you may want to ask these questions, to further review the Bible story and to make application:

- What did Abigail take with her and offer David in order to make peace with him? (*Food; bread, meat, raisin cakes, fig cakes*)
- What did Abigail say to David to persuade him not to fight Nabal [NAY bal]? (*She asked him not to pay attention to Nabal because Nabal was behaving foolishly, not to let Nabal’s rudeness get to him; she encouraged him not to let anger get the better of him, that he would regret it later.*)
-  **What are some ways you can help others to make peace?** (*Pray for them, be a true friend to both parties, not take sides, encourage them to listen and talk.*)
- Between Abigail, Nabal, and David, who do you think was the most powerful over their situation? (*Abigail, because she was able to persuade David and stop the fight between David and Nabal.*)

SMALL GROUP LEADER: “Abigail was a peacemaker. She knew how to apply God’s instructions in Romans 14:19. Which words from our Activity Page did you choose to describe yourself? Are you a peacemaker, like Abigail? Do you tend to start arguments, like Nabal? Or are you somewhere in the middle? You don’t necessarily start fights with others, but you don’t do anything to try to stop a fight, either, like David. **! Just because you didn’t start a fight doesn’t mean you can’t stop it.** God created peace for



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for 2nd–3rd grade

a reason. When we have peace, we can think and talk and get things done. When we're in conflict with people, there's not much room for thinking, talking, or getting things done. Arguing and fighting causes us to pull against each other, instead of working together, to get the things done that God wants us to do. There will always be situations in life that need peacemakers to intervene. In Abigail's case, she was able to save her home and her husband. You never know who or what you may be able to save by being a peacemaker! 🦶 **What could you do to try to make peace if two of your friends at school are fighting?** (Give kids time to think and answer.) **What could you do if someone in your family, like a brother or sister or cousin, acts like Nabal or David?"** (Pause for answers.)

♥ Tell kids about a time you were able to help people make peace. Or tell them about a time when someone helped you make peace. How did God use you? What did you learn from this experience about making peace?

SUPPLIES:

none

4. Where Two or More Are Gathered (pray)

Divide kids into groups of two or three. 🦶 **Comment that a powerful way to help someone become a peacemaker is to pray for him or her. Tell them to spend a minute or so praying for each other, asking God to help the other be a peacemaker whenever possible.** Close the prayer time with a refrain prayer. Pray a phrase and pause, giving the kids time to repeat the phrase after you.

SMALL GROUP LEADER: "Dear God ... thank You for creating peace ... and for teaching me about Your peace ... Help me to be a peacemaker in my own life ... and in the lives of others ... Remind me that just because I didn't start a fight ... doesn't mean I can't stop it ... Help me to do whatever I need to do ... to live peacefully with people ... Amen."

WRAP UP

Bring together all the groups in your classroom so the Classroom Facilitator can conclude the session with a review. Be prepared to distribute this week's GodTime and Fridge Door cards.



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for 2nd-3rd grade

CLASSROOM FACILITATOR: "It's not always easy to live in peace with the people around us, but it's something God has told us to do. 🦶 **So how hard will you work at fixing what is wrong between you and someone else? What are you willing to do or give to remain at peace with the people in your life? Sometimes you just have to drop it. Sometimes you have to be willing to give something away. Sometimes you'll have to choose to forgive. And other times you'll have to get involved.** Remember, **! just because you didn't start a fight doesn't mean you can't stop it.** God created peace, and He wants us to live in peace with others. Okay, guys, it's time to go in peace!"

Distribute the GodTime and Fridge Door cards.