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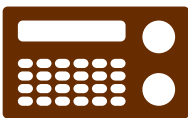
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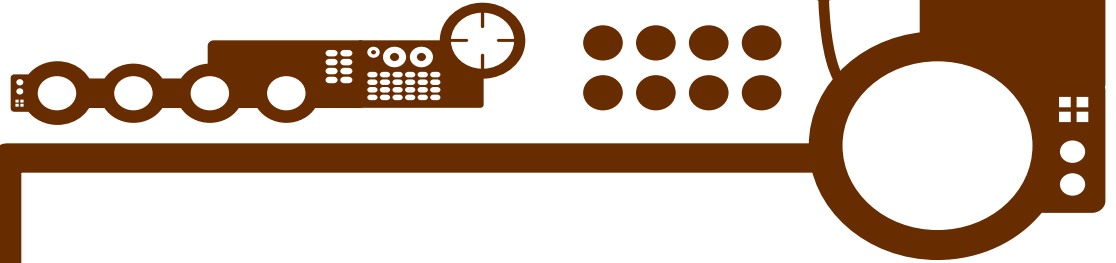
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252 BASICS®

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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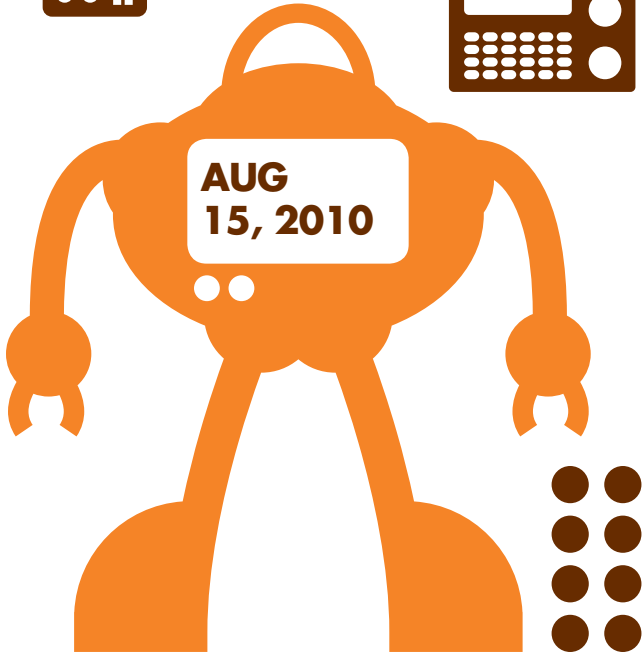
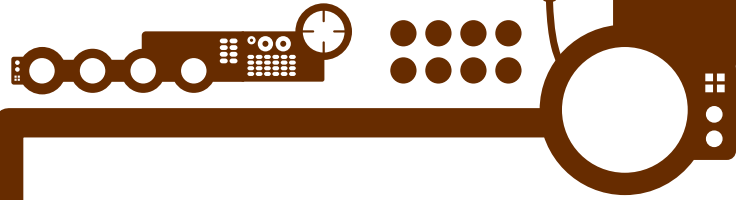
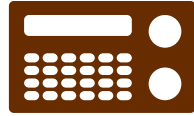
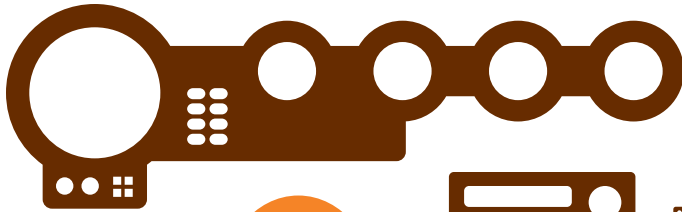
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252 BASICS®

Virtue: **PEACE**

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

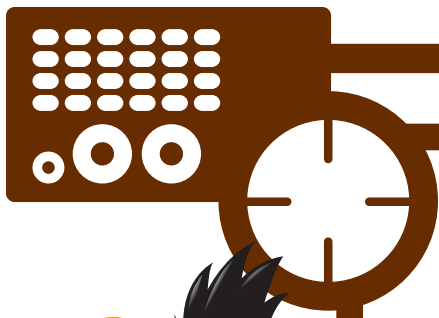


Howdy, Pardon-er

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, NIV

Bible Story: Howdy, Pardon-er (Jacob and Esau meet again) • Genesis 27:41-45; 32:1-21; 33:1-11

Bottom Line: It's better to let go than to get even.

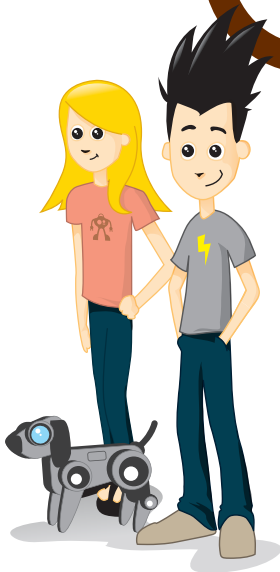


PLUG IN Small groups

- 10-15 minutes
- Focus the Energy
- for kindergarten-1st grade

CATCH ON Small groups

- 25-30 minutes
- Make the Connection
- for kindergarten-1st grade



Virtue:

PEACE

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

Bottom Line: It's better to let go than to get even.



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:

**HOWDY,
PARDON-ER**

Genesis 27:41-45; 32:1-21;
33:1-11

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.

Kindergarten–1st Grade

FOR LEADERS ONLY

The past couple of weeks we've talked about peace and more specifically, how to avoid conflict. But let's say you've forgotten everything you've learned. Somehow you've gotten yourself in an ongoing battle and neither one of you is letting up. What happens now? It gets really hard from here on out, but you can still have peace. (1) Peace is proving that you care more about others than winning an argument. That means your relationship with that person is important enough that you'd give in once in a while, even when you think you're right. (2) Think about the mercy with which God treats us. Instead of punishing or getting even with us, God offers us peace time and again. He knows He's right, but He gives us every opportunity to be reconciled to Him. (3) God wants us to offer that same kind of patience to others. (4) If we do this, we mend bridges with friends and family that we might have lost over something insignificant. As followers of Jesus, we should always have forgiveness to spare, even for the people who we think are in the wrong.

GET READY

For each small group, do the following:

- **Early Arriver Idea:** Provide an interesting offering container.



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 kindergarten–1st grade

- **You First:** You'll need a ball that's about the size and softness of the ones used in the game "Four Square."
- 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:

an interesting offering container

Early Arriver Idea

Ask the kids if they spent this past week being peacemakers. If they had an opportunity to make peace, did it make them feel strong? Did they have any situations in which they needed to ask for God's help or advice from an adult? Were they able to use their peace boxes? Invite the kids to put their offerings in the offering container.


SUPPLIES:

ball

You First

Lead the kids in a version of the game "Over/Under." Line the kids up, one behind the other. Give the ball to the first kid. He should say, "You first" to the kid behind him, hand the ball to that kid, and then run to the back of the line. The new "first" kid should hand the ball over his head to the kid behind him, who should then pass the ball between her legs to the kid behind her. The next kid passes the ball over his head to the kid behind him, and so on. When the ball gets to the end of the line, bring it back to the front and the game starts over again. Play as long as time allows.

WRAP UP

SMALL GROUP LEADER: "That was a fun twist, letting the person behind you go first!  I wonder if that has anything to do with the Bible story today. Let's go find out!"

Lead your group to the large group area.



Virtue:

PEACE

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

Bottom Line: It's better to let go than to get even.



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:

**HOWDY,
PARDON-ER**

Genesis 27:41-45; 32:1-21;
33:1-11

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.

Kindergarten–1st Grade

GET READY

For each small group, do the following:

- **I Won't Get Even:** Provide paper and colored pencils.
- **Pardon-er Prayers:** Kids will need their pictures from the "I Won't Get Even" activity.
- **Pardon-er Hold 'Em:** Provide a few Hacky Sacks®, small beanbags, or multiples of some other small, soft object. There should be enough that it is difficult for a kid to hold all of them at the same time.
- **Memory Verse Nametag Switcheroo Part 2:** Use the leftover nametags from last week to make nametags out of the words of the second sentence (or phrase) of the memory verse. Again, it's best to put two words on each nametag and number them in their correct order.
- **Wrap Up:** You'll need a pile of the small objects used in the "Pardon-er Hold 'Em" activity.
- 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 #2. Activity #3 is 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?



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?

**CATCH ON: Make the Connection**

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for kindergarten–1st grade



SUPPLIES:


paper, colored pencils

*** 1. I Won't Get Even (application activity / review the Bible lesson)**

Ask kids the following questions to make sure the Bible story stuck with them. Then talk about how we all have been mad at a friend or sibling at some point. We all have had someone borrow something without asking or forget that they were supposed to sit with us at lunch. Hand out the paper and colored pencils and let the kids draw a situation in which they've gotten mad at someone for something said or done. Guide them to choose something that happened recently or something that was a pretty big event, so it's fresh in their minds.

1. True or False: Esau [EE saw] didn't mind that Jacob had done something mean to him by taking something that didn't belong to him. *(False; Esau held a grudge against Jacob.)*
2. How did Esau want to get even with Jacob? *(He wanted to kill him.)*
3. What did Jacob do, many years later, to try to calm Esau down and get him to stop being mad? *(Sent animals to him as gifts.)*
4. True or False: Esau went through with his plan and took his revenge against Jacob. *(False; Esau chose to let go of his anger and make peace with Jacob.)*

SMALL GROUP LEADER: ! "It's better to let go than to get even. You may feel like breaking a friend's toy after he accidentally breaks yours, but  **that's not what God wants you to do.** God wants you to forgive that friend. Sometimes that's really hard to do!  **You might end up with a broken toy, but that's so much better than losing a friend because you reacted with anger instead of peace.** Has anyone ever heard the word grudge? When you hold a grudge, you refuse to forgive and stay mad instead. The longer you choose not to forgive someone, the madder you get about the situation. Then it becomes a lot harder to forgive that person and make peace. And if you can't make peace, you're not making the wise choice to do what God wants you to do."

 **Give the kids an age-appropriate example from your own life of when you held onto a grudge. How did it make you feel? How did it make the other person feel? What did it take to get the matter resolved?**




CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for kindergarten–1st grade

SUPPLIES:

kids' pictures from previous activity

* 2. Pardon-er Prayers (*pray*)

Lead the kids in a "call and response" type of prayer. You'll say a sentence and then pause for the kids to repeat it. Bring their attention to the pictures they drew in the last activity. Challenge them to  **remember those situations as they pray for God's help in dealing with them.** After the prayer, lead the kids to tear up their pictures and throw away the pieces as a symbol of "letting go." Ask them to keep one piece to remind them that **! it's better to let go than to get even.** Your prayer time might sound like this:

SMALL GROUP LEADER: "God wants us to remember that **! it's better to let go than to get even.** And who better to help us with this than God Himself?"


"Dear God, thank You for giving us the story of Jacob and Esau (*kids repeat*) to teach us the importance of peace. (*Kids repeat.*) We thank You that because You forgive us (*kids repeat*) when we mess up (*kids repeat*), we can forgive others when they mess up. (*Kids repeat.*) Please help us to let go and make peace (*kids repeat*) with the people we drew in our pictures. (*Kids repeat.*) We love You, God. Amen." (*Kids repeat.*)

SUPPLIES:

small objects

3. Pardon-er Hold 'Em (*application activity / great for boys*)

Place the pile of small objects about 15 feet away from your group. Line the kids up facing the pile. The first kid will run down to the pile, pick up all the objects at once, and attempt to run back to the group. The rest of the kids should call out to him, **! "It's better to let go than to get even!"** The kid holding the objects should then drop them and run back to the group. On the next kid's turn, she should pick up the objects and attempt to return them to their original location. The group calls out the bottom line again; the kid drops the objects and returns to the group. Repeat this relay until each of the kids has had a turn.

SMALL GROUP LEADER: "Well, that was fun and crazy! Forgiveness is a lot like letting go of something. It's letting go of your anger over something someone has done to you. And it's a lot harder than letting go of a bunch of [insert name of objects you used].  **But God says you have to choose to forgive in order to have peace. If someone does something to hurt your feelings and you haven't forgiven him or her, you can't have peace with that person."**



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for kindergarten–1st grade

SUPPLIES:

prepared nametags

4. Memory Verse Nametag Switcheroo Part 2 (*memory verse activity / great for boys*)

Lead this activity the same way as last week's activity. Divide your group in half. Put nametags on half of the kids. Guide the other half of the kids to put the "nametags" (i.e., their friends) in order of the memory verse. You can help them by telling them what each next word is.

When you are finished with the game, challenge the kids to say the verse individually and completely from memory. Remind them of the ongoing challenge to memorize the entire verse and be able to say it next week.

SMALL GROUP LEADER: "God says that it's important not just to build each other up, but to work hard at building each other up. 🦶 **What's one way to build your friends up?** (*Encourage them; say kind things to them; be a friend; do and say things that help you have peace with them.*) 🦶 **You can make your friends feel great when you choose to forgive when they do something wrong.** Plus you'll show them that God says **! it's better to let go than to get even."**

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. Gather a pile of the small objects that were used in activity #3.

CLASSROOM FACILITATOR: (*Pick up then drop the small objects as if they're too much to carry.*) "Whoops! Guess I can't hold onto as much stuff as I thought I could! When I was holding all these things, I couldn't move around very well. The same is true when you hold onto a grudge. There's no room for peace when you're carrying a grudge against someone for something they did. This week, don't forget that **! it's better to let go than to get even."**

Give each child a GodTime card. Distribute Fridge Door cards to parents as they arrive.