



WEEK
ONE
MARCH 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Whenever, Wherever
Live in Peace with Everyone
Romans 12:18

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is it important to make peace?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Make peace whenever you can.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"If possible, live in peace
with everyone. Do that
as much as you can."**
Romans 12:18, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**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.**

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and
Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



Before kids arrive, take a couple of moments to pray that you would have an amazing Small Group exploring what it means to live in peace with everyone around us. Pray for wisdom, patience and grace as you lead your kids.

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Use the painter's tape to make a starting line that's long enough for all the kids to stand behind.
- Instruct the kids to line up behind the starting line facing the same direction.
- Choose a kid to be the announcer.
- Direct the announcer to stand on the opposite end of your group space with their back facing the rest of the group.
- Instruct the announcer to first share a movement (like crab walk, bunny hop, etc.), and then say, "Green Light!"
- When the rest of the kids hear "Green Light!" instruct them to start moving toward the announcer in the way that was announced.
- Direct the announcer to say, "Red Light!"
- When the announcer says, "Red Light!" direct the kids to stop.
- If any kids keep moving after the announcer says, "Red Light!" instruct them to go back to the starting line.
- As kids arrive to group, direct them to stand behind the starting line and join the game.
- Continue playing until a kid reaches the announcer.
- Direct that kid to be the announcer for the next round.
- Play more rounds as time allows.

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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.



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning
through following guidelines and
working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to sit in a circle, on their knees, placing both hands flat on the floor in front of them.
- Instruct each kid to take their right hand and cross it over the left hand of the kid to their right.
- Choose one of the kids to start the game.
- Instruct the kid to start the game by tapping one of their hands once on the floor.
- Direct the next kid in the circle, moving clockwise, to tap their hand once on the floor.
- Instruct the kids to continue tapping hands around the circle in a clockwise direction.
- Once the taps have gone around the circle, pause the game.
- Explain that as the tapping continues around the circle, anyone can choose to tap their hand twice, instead of only once. When someone does this, it reverses the direction of the tapping.
- Resume the game and try out this added rule.
- After a few minutes, pause the game once more.
- Challenge the kids to try to keep the circuit of tapping moving as seamlessly as possible.
 - Explain if anyone hesitates or flinches when it's their turn to tap, that person will have to remove that one hand, placing it behind their back and then the tapping will start over.
- Continue to play the game, keeping the circuit as steady as possible.
- As the kids get the hang of things, challenge them to speed up the circuit.
- The last kid (or last few kids) with a hand in the circle wins the game!
- Play again if time allows.
- For a visual demonstration of the game, click this link: <https://bit.ly/3sCXSpP> or scan the QR code below.



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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job! In this game, we definitely had to work together to keep our circuit of hands moving. Whenever someone hesitated or flinched, it caused a disconnect in the circuit. **[Transition]** Today, we'll see what the Bible has to say about how we should do everything we can to stay connected. Let's go to Large Group!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning
through hands on experimentation
and discovery



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Play-Doh, battery pack, batteries, LED pin lights, flour, sugar, vegetable oil, water, bowl, spoon, zip-top bags, and paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cover an area with paper towels—either on a table or on the floor where everyone can see.
- Place the bowl on the covered floor or table.
- Invite the kids to gather around.
- Set the premeasured flour, sugar, vegetable oil, and water in zip-top bags next to the bowl.
- Ask: “What are some things that can stand in the way of having peace?”
 - These could be personal or hypothetical examples, like the school bus (because kids often get into arguments there), or the baseball field, (because kids often get really fired up when they play).
- Invite a kid to share an example.
- After the first kid shares, invite them to pour the flour into the bowl.
- Repeat with three more kids.
- Instruct each kid to add in the remaining ingredients in the following order:
 - Sugar
 - Vegetable oil
 - Water
- Use the spoon to mix the ingredients until they form a dough.
 - You may need to use your hand to knead the dough a few times.
 - Use paper towels to clean your hands.
- As you are mixing, talk about how we all have situations where it’s hard to make peace. Compare that to dough you are forming—just as ingredients were added one by one, situations we experience one after the next can lead us to feel frustrated. It may all seem like a big mess.
- Set out the battery pack and LED pin lights.
- Take the Play-Doh out of the canister.
- Divide the Play-Doh into two portions.
- Ask: “What are some ways you can make peace in the situations you shared earlier?”
- Choose one of the kids who shared to mold one of the portions of Play-Doh into a heart shape.
- Explain the heart symbolizes our efforts to make peace during a difficult conflict.
- Stack the lump of dough you prepared over the Play-Doh heart, then add the other portion of Play-Doh, so that it looks like a sandwich.
- Stick the red wire of the battery pack into the heart-shaped piece of Play-Doh.
- Stick the black wire of the battery pack into the other portion of Play-Doh.
- Stick the two ends of an LED pin light into each portion of Play-Doh (NOT the prepared dough).

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT, CONTINUED)

- The light should immediately illuminate.
- If the light does not come on, try swapping which end is in each of the lumps of Play-Doh.
- Explain when we choose to make peace, it truly is powerful! But it takes our efforts to make peace. We can do that by relying on God's love to help us switch on the power of peace!
- Remove the red wire from the Play-Doh and point out how the light goes off.
- Compare the battery pack as a symbol for God, our Source of peace. When we aren't connected to God, it breaks the circuit and makes it impossible to turn the light on.
- If time allows, let kids take turns putting the pin lights into the dough and removing them to watch the lights come on and off.
- For a visual demonstration, click this link: <https://bit.ly/3R6cHZV> or scan the QR code below.





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25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Circuit Story" Activity Page, "Circuit Story Leader Guide", Activity Page tape, yellow highlighter or marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Spread out the "Circuit Story" Activity Pages around the floor of your group space (not in sequential order).
- Explain the kids will work together to put the pieces in story order and that the lightbulb is the final piece.
- Ask for a volunteer to start the circuit.
- Instruct them to look at all the pieces on the floor and choose which piece explains what happened first.
- Once a kid has selected a piece, hand them the roll of tape.
- Instruct them to use the tape to hang the page on the left side of the wall in your group space.
 - If you do not have a wall nearby, just lay them out in order on the floor.
- Ask for another volunteer to continue the circuit by choosing the second page and hang it (or place it) directly to the right of the first piece.
- Continue until all eight circuit pieces have been placed. (See the "Circuit Story Leader Guide" Activity Page for the answer key.)
- Invite any kids in the group to indicate if they think any pages have been placed incorrectly.
- Choose a volunteer to hang up the final piece at the end of the circuit, which displays a lightbulb and this week's Bottom Line.
- Remind the kids that when Paul wrote this letter to the Romans encouraging them to live in peace, he understood that this was difficult to do. But he also knew how powerful it was to live in peace, rather than tension and conflict.
- Choose one more volunteer to use the yellow highlighter or marker to color in the lightbulb on the last piece of the circuit.
- Explain that peace is like the light bulb. It takes all the pieces of the circuit to work together to power it on.
- Ask:
 - Have you experienced any situations recently where you had to make peace? If so, would you like to share them with the group?
 - What are some ways you can you stop and make peace when you're in the middle of a conflict?

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Romans 12:18

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to
share with others and build
on their understanding



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Do you feel stressed when you're in conflict with someone?
- Who are some people who are hard for you to have peace with?
- Is it challenging to make peace with someone else?
- Why is it important to make peace?
- Does making peace always mean you have to give up what you want?

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, prepared toilet paper tubes, and flashlight

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Romans 12:18 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Whenever, Wherever
Live in Peace with Everyone
Romans 12:18

***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Our verse is from Romans. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verses 18 in chapter 12.*

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is it important to make peace?

- Read Romans 12:18 out loud several times together.
- Direct the kids to leave their Bibles open for reference.
- Place the 16 prepared toilet paper tubes (or 18 for the NIV), plastic-wrap side down, in a 4 x 4 grid. (For the NIV, you'll have 2 extra on a new row in the grid.)
- Lead the kids in a game of Romans 12:18 Memory.
- Choose a kid to take the first turn.
- Give them the flashlight.
- Direct them to look for the first two words of Romans 12:18.
- Allow them to refer to their Bibles as needed.
- Instruct the first kid to choose two tubes to turn over.
- Once they've turned over the first tube, direct them to point the plastic-wrap side of the tube in the direction of a light-colored surface (like the wall or floor), and shine the flashlight through it so the word written is projected on the floor or wall.
 - It may work better if kids hold the tube closer to the wall or floor.
- If they happen to get both of the first two words, instruct them to keep them as a match.
- If the kid does not get both of the first two words, direct them to return the tubes to their spots in the grid.
- Continue play with the next kid's turn.
- Repeat this process, allowing kids to take turns finding the first two words.
- Once the first two words of the verse have been found, instruct the kids to find the next two words of the verse.
- Play until all words have been found in verse order.
 - The last two words of the verse will be "Romans" and "12:18."
- The kid who finds the most matches is the winner!
- Instruct the kids to say the verse out loud together.
- Ask: "How can God's Holy Spirit help you make peace?"

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal understanding
and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Light switch plates, permanent markers
in assorted colors, washi tape; or "Prayer Switch" Activity
Page and regular markers in assorted colors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to sit together.
- Ask:
 - Is anyone experiencing a situation in your life where you need peace?
 - If so, how can we pray for you?
- Invite any kids who would like to share.
- Hand each kid a light switch plate (or the "Prayer Switch" Activity Page).
- Set out the permanent markers and washi tape (or regular markers if using the "Prayer Switch" Activity Page).
- Invite the kids to use the supplies to decorate their light switch plates.
- Encourage the kids to write: "Switch on the power of peace" somewhere on their plate.
- Encourage kids to take their light switch plates home and ask a parent to help them exchange it with a current plate on a light switch in their home.
 - If using the "Prayer Switch" Activity Page instead, invite the kids to hang it on the wall next to a light switch.
- Close your group time in prayer, making sure to pray specifically about any of situations that may have been shared earlier.

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HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Painter's tape, one roll for each Small Group

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed
- Note: Check out <https://bit.ly/3sCXSpP> for a visual on how to play the game.

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Play-Doh, one canister for each Small Group
- Battery pack, one pack for each Small Group
- LED pin lights, two to three lights for each Small Group
- Batteries, type and enough to fill the battery pack for each Small Group
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup flour for each Small Group
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar for each Small Group
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon vegetable oil for each Small Group
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water for each Small Group

- Bowl, one for each Small Group
- Spoon, one for each Small Group
- Paper towels, one roll for each Small Group
- Zip-top bags, four for each Small Group
- Before group time, pre-portion the following ingredients and place them zip-top bags:
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ cup flour
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ Tablespoon vegetable oil
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water
- For a visual of this activity click here:
<https://bit.ly/3R6cHZV>

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Circuit Story" Activity Page on paper, one set for each Small Group
- Print "Circuit Story Leader Guide" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Yellow highlighter or marker, one for each Small Group

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles, one for each kid
- Plastic wrap, 16 pieces for each Small Group
- Permanent marker, one for each Small Group
- Rubber bands, 16 for each Small Group
- Toilet paper tubes, 16 for each Small Group



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HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

- Flashlight, one for each Small Group
- Before group time, prepare the toilet paper tubes:
 - Tear 16 pieces of plastic wrap.
 - On each of the 16 pieces, use a permanent marker to write each word of Romans 12:18. ("Romans" will be one word and "12:18" will be a separate word.)
 - Be sure to write the words small enough so that they fit in the circle opening of the toilet paper tubes.
 - For each toilet paper tube, choose a piece of plastic wrap that has a word from Romans 12:18 on it, and flip it upside down so that the word is backwards.
 - Position the word so it is centered over one end of the tube and tightly fasten the plastic wrap over the opening, using a rubber band.
 - Repeat this process until each of the pieces of plastic wrap have been fastened onto a toilet paper tube.
 - If using the NIV, make 18 prepared toilet paper tubes following the same instructions.
- Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Light switch plates, one for each kid
 - Or Print "Prayer Switch" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Permanent markers in assorted colors, one set for each Small Group
 - Or regular markers in assorted colors, one set for each Small Group
- Washi tape in assorted colors/designs, several rolls for each Small Group

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and