Give Peace a Chance

Bible: Give Peace a Chance (Abigail Intervenes) • 1 Samuel 25:1-35
Bottom Line: Prove you care more about others by being part of the solution.
Memory Verse: “Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” Romans 14:19 (NIV)
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.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)
9:00 & 11:30
Early Arriver Idea
- No supplies needed

10:15
Sheep Shearers
- “Sheep” Activity Page on cardstock and cut out; one sheep for each kid
- Cotton balls; three for each kid
- Glue stick or bottle of glue; one for every three kids

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)
- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)
9:00 & 11:30
Stand by Your Answer
- “Sheep” (from Social) or about 12 cotton balls
- One paper plate
- One slice of bread in a sandwich bag

10:15
Sounds Like Peace
- Bibles

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)
- Bible
- One wooden block for yourself and each child

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)
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**Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)**
Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s Bible Truth.

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.

**9:00 & 11:30**
**Early Arriver Idea**  
*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**
- Play a game of word association.
- Call out a holiday (Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Halloween/ Harvest, 4th of July, Valentine’s Day, Hanukkah, Father’s Day, Mother’s Day, birthday party, etc.) and ask kids to shout out a food associated with that day.
- Then switch, calling out traditional foods (pumpkin pie, honey ham, jelly beans, barbecue, etc.), and ask kids to call the holiday.
- Holidays can involve a lot of both food and people. Ask kids:  
  - Have you ever had a friend attend a holiday meal with your family?  
  - How were they treated?  
  - What would happen if an unexpected guest randomly showed up at a holiday meal?  
  - How would your family respond?

In today’s Bible Truth, we’ll encounter a man and his friends asking if they can attend a party. It was a tense situation. Let’s go find out.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.
10:15
Sheep Sharers
What You Need: “Sheep” Activity Page, cotton balls; three for each kid, glue

What You Do:
- Form groups of three.
- Give nine cotton balls to one team member in each group, one container of glue to the second child, and three precut sheep to the third.
- Without giving any further instructions, tell the kids that they have five minutes (or whatever amount of time you have) until Large Group.
- Tell them to work as a team to use what you’ve given them in the best possible way they can think of.
- Note: It’s fine if kids don’t end up gluing the cotton balls to the “Sheep” (unless they glue them to the walls!). The goal is for them to figure out what they should do and share their supplies with their teammates.

What You Say:
“You did a great job figuring out what to do with each of the supplies you were given. Gluing some cotton to the sheep was a great idea. [Transition] In our Bible Truth today, we’ll learn about a woman who figured out how to solve a very big problem. Let’s go to Large Group to learn more.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.
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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer
What You Need:
- Leader
- Whistle
- Black and white referee shirt for the Leader
- Basketball headband hoop for the Leader
- Masking tape
- Small basketball-themed prizes; one for each kid
- Phone timer

2. Bible Truth
What You Need:
- Historyteller
- 252 Story

3. Worship
What You Need:
- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):
- “All the Glory”
- “Anything Ever”
- “Good, Good Father”
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**Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)**

*SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

**CG: Jump Ball Slide**

Leader enters, wearing the basketball hoop headband, referee shirt, and whistle. Pretend to be unaware of the headband and act like everything is normal.

**Opener**

**LEADER:** “What is UP, everyone? I HOOP—I mean, I HOPE *(Scratch your head in confusion and touch the hoop, but still don’t acknowledge it.)*—you’re as excited to be here today as I am. I’m pretty sure today is going to be a SLAM DUNK. So there’s no need *(Wave one hand in the air, palm facing the audience, as though emphasizing the ‘no.’)* to be a BASKET case *(Touch the basket on your head and you suddenly realize it’s there.)*. What’s this? Ah, I almost forgot I had this bad boy on.

“I’m not sure how I could forget—especially since this month we’ve been having a blast playing a little b-ball while we learn about peace.

**CG: Peace Slide**

“Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument. Even though peace SOUNDS good, I think we’ve seen that’s not always so easy. After all, most of us like to WIN at everything. Today you’re all going to get another chance to win, too, because we’re going to play a little game I like to call ‘Headband Hoopla’!”

“Not so fast! First, we get to praise and worship our God with our favorite friends….the Power Praise team!”

*Power Praise team enters as Host joins the audience.*

**Worship**

*SFX: “All the Glory”*

*SFX: “Anything Ever”*

*SFX: “Good, Good Father”*

Host retakes the stage as Power Praise exits.
HOST: “Fun! Fun! Now, I believe I was talking about a game. Yes, I was! It’s pretty simple. You’ll have one minute to try to get as many of these basketballs as you can into this hoop (*Point to your hat.*). You’ve got to shoot from behind this line. (*Point to the tape line.*) If you guys can get [a reasonable number based on the number of kids and basketballs you have, but then add on a few] into the hoop before the minute is up, everyone gets a prize. If not, no one gets a prize. Do you guys think you can do it?

*Hand out the basketballs to the kids.*

“All right—let’s see what you’ve got. Three . . . two . . . one . . . go!

*Set a phone timer for one minute (if you have a buzzer sound option for the alarm, use that).*

Don’t make it easy on them at first. You can move around some and even block some shots. Depending on how well they’re doing, you can step closer to them to make it easier after 30 seconds, or you can wait until the timer is about to end. Your goal is to “become a part of the solution” by helping them meet their goal so everyone gets a prize.

“That was fantastic, everyone! I could see you were all working really hard, so I decided to stop creating problems and instead be a part of the solution. And you did it! I’ve got a prize for everyone that you’ll get during Small Group, so way to go, everybody! You all can give it up for [Historyteller’s Name]!”

*Host exits. Historyteller enters.*

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hi, everybody! My name is [Historyteller’s name] and I’m so excited to be here with you today. I want you to think about something for a second. Do any of these problems sound familiar to you? Maybe you forgot your jacket at school. Maybe your bedroom is just a little TOO dark at night. Maybe you’re hungry for a snack and there are no granola bars left in the box.

“When there’s a problem, you need a solution. Do you know what a solution is? A solution is anything that fixes or solves a problem. So, for example, if you forgot your jacket, you could look in the lost and found for it the next day. If your room is too dark, you could get the hall light on. If your granola bars are gone, you could ask your mom to buy some more at the grocery store. Those are all solutions to those problems.

“You know, there’s a Truth in the Bible (*Hold up Bible.*) about a woman named Abigail. Abigail saw a problem . . . and she had to think fast to come up with a solution!

“Let me show you. (*To Tech Leader*) Will you roll that film please?”

*CG: 252 Story*
WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Abigail was definitely a wise woman! She saw a BIG problem coming if David and Nabal chose to fight. But she was brave enough to be part of the solution. She showed David that he didn’t have to fight; he could keep the peace with Nabal.

“What about you? Do you think you could do that too? Could you do what Abigail did and help people solve their problems in a peaceful way? It’s not easy. But God can help you!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Prove you care more about others by being part of the solution.

“Even if you weren’t part of the problem, you can bring peace by helping to find a solution. Let’s pray.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, thank You for the Bible. That You that we can read stories of brave people like Abigail. She saw a problem, and she did something about it. She became part of the solution. Help us to remember that we can do the same thing. When we see a problem, help us to ask ourselves what we can do to fix it. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you.”

Historyteller exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “What Abigail did was pretty cool. Her husband, Nabal, caused a huge problem. David and his army were coming to fight Nabal, which would have been really bad and really dangerous.

“But instead of blaming people for what was going wrong, instead of running and hiding, instead of giving up, Abigail decided to make peace by becoming part of the solution.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“That’s the one thing to remember today: [Bottom Line] prove you care more about others by being part of the solution. Say it with me.”

KIDS and HOST: [Bottom Line] “Prove you care more about others by being part of the solution.”

HOST: “When you’re at school this week, or at home, or at soccer practice, if you see a problem, ask yourself, ‘How can I be part of the solution?’ What will it take to make, keep, and choose peace?

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“‘Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.’ Romans 14:19 NIV.”
That’s a great way you can *Basic Truth* treat others the way you want to be treated. After all, wouldn't you love it if someone helped solve a problem for you?

“I know you’ll have some GREAT ideas about how to do that. You’ll talk about it some more back in Small Group. Have fun!”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*

*CG: Small Group Slide*
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**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.

**Groups:** Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)
Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**9:00 & 11:30**

**Stand by Your Answer**

What You Need: “Sheep” (from Social) or cotton balls, plate, slice of bread in a sandwich bag

What You Do:
- Place the sheep (or cotton balls), plate, and bread in three different areas of the room.
- Explain that you will read a statement that could be something that was said by one of the people in today’s Bible Truth.
- If they think the statement is about Nabal, the rich guy with all the sheep, they should stand by the sheep.
- If it’s something about David, the hungry guy, they should stand by the plate.
- If the statement is about Abigail, Nabal’s wife, tell them to stand by (but not on) the bread.
  - Before I became the king of Israel, my men and I often lived in the wilderness to hide from King Saul. (DAVID)
  - David often protected my sheep and servants from thieves. (NABAL)
  - Together with my servants, I gathered up food, sheep, and other supplies and loaded it up on donkeys. (ABIGAIL)
  - I wanted to teach Nabal a lesson for not sharing his food with us. (DAVID)
  - After all the sheep were sheared for the season, I threw a big feast. (NABAL)
  - I knew that David’s men were very good to us and kept us safe. (ABIGAIL)
  - I saw no reason to invite David and his men to MY feast. (NABAL)
  - The Lord kept me from getting even with Nabal. (DAVID)
  - Because I found a way to make peace, my entire household was saved. (ABIGAIL)
  - I sent my men to ask if we could have some food. (DAVID)
  - I apologized for how mean my husband had acted. (ABIGAIL)

What You Say:

“In our Truth, Abigail proved she cared about others by helping to solve the problem Nabal caused. She did all she could do to live in peace, didn’t she? Instead of standing by while her family was in danger, she boldly stepped into action! While Nabal was ready to make war, Abigail was ready to make peace. She got food and gifts for David, she traveled to meet him, and she apologized for something she didn’t even do! When you see a problem or conflict, **[Bottom Line]** prove you care more about others by being part of the solution. When you do, you’ll be helping others see God’s love in you.”
10:15
Sounds Like Peace
[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]
Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Help kids look up Romans 14:19 using the tips from Week 1, if needed.
- When they’ve all found the verse, say it together as you read it aloud.
- Unpack the phrase “build up one another,” emphasizing that building others up can be a great way to encourage peace. *(to say good things about each other, to help each other, to encourage each other)*
- Ask kids to describe and show you what people look and sound like when things ARE NOT peaceful. *(loud, angry, talking fast, a lot of commotion, sad, etc.)*
- Invite them to recite Romans 14:19 *(individually or as a group)* using their voice, body, and facial expression to look and sound “un-peaceful.”
- Next, ask kids to describe and show you what people look and sound like when things ARE peaceful. *(calm, quiet, talking slowly, happy, etc.)*
- Invite them to recite Romans 14:19 once again *(individually or as a group)* using their voice, body, and facial expressions to look and sound “peaceful.”

What You Say:
“When you choose to stay calm, speak softly, and say kind words, you’re helping to make peace. Just by choosing to be the one who doesn’t yell can make a huge difference. Romans 14:19 tells us to do two things: First, do all we can to live in peace, and second, work hard to build each other up. Doing all you can to live in peace will sometimes mean that you’re going to have to help others live in peace too. You [Bottom Line] prove you care about others by being part of the solution to a problem, even if the problem isn’t yours. God wants you to help others live in peace as well as yourself.”
All Service Times
Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)
[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]
Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Bible, wooden blocks

What You Do:
- Read the memory verse, Romans 14:19, to the kids and remind them that when they say nice things about each other, help and encourage each other, they are building others up. They are also doing their part to keep peace.
- Place one block on the floor and give each of the kids their own block.
- Ask each person to think of someone they can build up this week and let them take turns sharing the name of that person as they place their blocks one on top of the other.

What You Say:
“Dear God, please help each of us to be peacemakers this week with the people we named. We need Your help to build them up and show them kindness. Help us to not be ‘problem causers’ this week but ‘peaceful problem solvers’ who step in and make things better. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent Cue cards as adults arrive to pick up and encourage kids to tell their adults the one thing they liked best about Abigail in today’s Bible Truth.