

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2024, Week 3

**Today's Bible Story:** The Peacemaker (Abigail Intervenes) • 1 Samuel 25:1-35

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can help others make peace.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* Romans 12:18 (ESV)

**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.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on how Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and to be in relationship with God. Thank God for this peace. Pray that the kids in your group would be open to finding peaceful solutions to the problems they face. Pray for opportunities for them to become peacemakers in their relationships with others.*

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

### **LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)**

**STORY:** Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

**WORSHIP:** Inviting People to Respond to God

Hang Time  
Welcome/Opener  
Worship  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### **SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)**

**GROUPS:** Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Story Exploration  
Bible Story Review: Who Did It?  
Application Activity: Pass the Peace  
Memory Verse Activity: Letter Verse  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

**HOME:** Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)  
Devotionals for Kids  
Parent Cue App

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

*Use this if kids have questions about following Jesus.*

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word gospel. Clarify that the word gospel means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

If a child has expressed interest in following Jesus, please let the parents know so they can be a part of the conversation that their child is having about faith.

### What Now?

If you put your trust in Jesus Christ and believe in Him as the One who forgives your sins and makes it possible for you to know God, we are so proud of you! There is no greater single decision that you could make.

We believe that baptism is an important next step for you. Baptism is your way of telling your friends and family, “Hey, I'm a follower of Jesus!” If you're interested in learning more or participating in baptism, talk to a staff member about the next steps you should take.

## **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

### **Story Exploration**

Read 1 Samuel 25:1-35 about Abigail, David and Nabal.

Who was Abigail?

What problem did Abigail solve in the story?

How did Abigail show wisdom in the situation?

Why do you think Abigail chose to help David instead of being angry with him?

What can we learn from Abigail about solving problems and making peace?

Abigail, a woman of wisdom and courage, found herself caught between two opposing forces: David, who sought revenge, and her husband Nabal, who provoked David's anger. In this tense situation, Abigail chose the path of peace. She demonstrated remarkable humility, wisdom, and compassion as she intervened to prevent bloodshed.

Abigail's actions echo the teachings of Jesus, who proclaimed, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). Just as Jesus reached out to heal divisions and reconcile humanity to God, Abigail sought reconciliation between David and Nabal. She exemplified the essence of following Jesus – embodying love, mercy, and forgiveness.

In our own lives, we often encounter conflicts, whether in our families, communities, or even within ourselves. It's tempting to respond with anger, retaliation, or avoidance. Yet, Jesus calls us to a higher standard – to be agents of peace and reconciliation.

Here are some ways that choosing peace can point others to Jesus:

**Reflecting Jesus' Character:** When we exhibit peace in the midst of conflict or tension, we reflect the character of Jesus, who is often described as the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). By embodying the peace that Jesus offers, we demonstrate to others what it means to be followers of Christ.

**Witnessing through Actions:** Our actions can speak louder than words. When we respond to difficult situations with grace, kindness, and a desire for reconciliation, we provide a tangible example of the transformative power of Jesus in our lives. Others may be drawn to Jesus by observing the peace that He brings to our hearts and relationships and may ask you about it.

**Inviting Others to Experience God's Peace:** By showing peace, we invite others to experience the peace that comes from a relationship with Jesus. When people witness the peace that surpasses understanding in our lives (Philippians 4:7), they may be curious to learn more about the source of that peace and be drawn closer to Jesus.

**Breaking Down Barriers:** Peace has the ability to break down barriers and build bridges between people. When we choose peace over conflict, we create opportunities for understanding, reconciliation, and unity. In doing so, we demonstrate the reconciling work of Jesus, who came to bring peace between God and humanity (Colossians 1:20).

**Mending relationships:** Showing peace can be a powerful means of bringing healing to broken relationships and wounded hearts. Just as Abigail's actions prevented bloodshed and brought

reconciliation between David and Nabal, our efforts to promote peace can be instruments of healing and restoration in the lives of others, pointing them to the ultimate healer, Jesus Christ.

In summary, showing peace in our lives not only reflects the character of Jesus but also serves as a compelling testimony to His transformative power and the peace that He offers to all who trust in Him.

## 1. Who Did It?

### [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

**What You Need:** Floor tape, and “Who Did It?” Activity Page

#### What You Do:

- Create a tape line on the floor in the middle of your small group area, long enough for your entire group to stand on.
- Designate one side of the line “Nabal” and the other side of the line “Abigail.”
- Direct the kids to stand on the tape line.
- Refer to the “Who Did It?” Activity Page, and one at a time, read a question about the story.
- Instruct the kids to jump to the “Nabal” side of the tape line or the “Abigail” side of the tape line to indicate their choice of who each fact is about.
- If there are kids on both sides of the tape line, direct them each to explain their decision, then read the correct answer.
- If kids jump to the correct side, instruct them to give each other high-fives.
- Instruct the kids to return to the line before reading the next fact.
- Continue to play until all facts are read.

#### What You Say:

“You all did an incredible job remembering what Nabal and Abigail did from today’s Bible story! It’s clear that these were two people who responded very differently in the moment. Things could have turned out very differently for Nabal and David, but Abigail used her courage and creativity to stop a big fight before it happened. She found a peaceful solution to a big problem!

“The great news is, we can do that too. Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and have a relationship with God. Jesus made peace between us and God. When we follow Jesus, we have God’s Spirit to help us make peace with others. When you notice two people who aren’t seeing eye-to-eye, **[Bottom Line] you can help others make peace.**”

***[Make It Personal] (Talk about a time when you saw a conflict happening, or about to happen, and you were able to help make peace. Or, it could be that someone helped to make peace for you. Think back to when you were a kid. Maybe a parent stepped in when you and a sibling were about to have a big argument. Maybe you saw two friends have a disagreement and you were able to clear up the miscommunication. Maybe a teacher or a coach stepped in at just the right time. Describe how this helped the situation turn out positively.)***

## \* 2. Pass the Peace

### [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Small ball or object, “Pass the Peace” Activity Page, music player, and upbeat music

#### What You Do:

- Lead a game similar to Hot Potato.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one kid in the circle the small ball or object.
- Start playing music.
- Instruct the kid with the small ball (or object) to start passing it around the circle.
- Stop the music.
- When the music stops, read a question from the “Pass the Peace” Activity Page.
- Direct the kid who is holding the ball to respond to the situation by sharing how they could make peace.
- Once the kid has shared a peaceful response, start the music again.
- Continue playing and asking questions from the “Pass the Peace” Activity Page until all kids have had a chance to answer.
  - NOTE: Repeat scenarios, if needed, inviting kids to share another idea.

#### What You Say:

“Those were some great, peaceful suggestions! Have you ever been in a situation similar to one of these? (*Invite responses.*) Yes—me too! Sometimes, I start feeling angry because I want to get my way, but that’s not the best response. When people don’t see eye-to-eye, you can choose how you respond, and **[Bottom Line] you can help others make peace.** Even if we’re not involved in the conflict, we can thoughtfully help others make peace *before* a big argument starts!”

“Everyone had great ideas on how to help make peace in these scenarios! But what do you do if you don’t know how to help make peace, or if you’re feeling uncomfortable? (*Invite responses.*) If you’re not feeling comfortable, it’s best to talk to a trusted adult. We have many trusted adults in our lives! Who’s someone you can talk to? (*Invite responses.*) Trusted adults are there to help us whenever we need them—including tricky situations with others. There are times when we all need a little extra help to make peace!”

### 3. Letter Verse

#### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, dry-erase eraser or cloth

#### What You Do:

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

***Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:*** Guide them 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 the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Romans in the list under "New Testament." 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 the kids find the page. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 18 in chapter 12.

- Say the verse out loud together several times.
- On the whiteboard, write out the Memory Verse fully.
- Read the verse together as a group.
- Erase one of the words and write the first letter of that word in its place.
- Read the Memory Verse, saying the word in place of its letter.
- Continue to remove a word and replace it with its first letter until the Memory Verse looks something like:
  - For the NIV: I I I P A F A I D O Y L A P W E, R 12:18
  - For the NIV: I I I P A F A I D O Y L A P W E, R 12:18
- Instruct the kids to repeat the Memory Verse a few times, only looking at the letters.

#### What You Say:

"This is one of my favorite ways to memorize Scripture! Memorizing Scripture is a great way to remember God's Word when we need it. When you feel conflict or are looking for peace, remember this verse! Like we talked about today, you can try your best to notice when two people aren't seeing eye-to-eye, and **[Bottom Line] you can help others make peace.**"

## 4. Pray and Dismiss

### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

#### What You Say:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember?
- How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission?

**What You Need:** "Maze" Activity Page, coloring supplies, LEGO® blocks, music player, and peaceful background music

#### What You Do:

- Designate three spaces in your area for prayer stations.
  - These will be the same stations as Weeks 1 and 2, but with different activities.
- In one station, place the "Maze" Activity Page and the coloring supplies. This will be the "Create" station.
- In another station, place the LEGO® blocks. This will be the "Build" station.
- In the third station, there are no supplies needed. This is the "Reflect" station.
- Divide your group into three smaller groups.
- Assign each group to start at one of the three stations.
- Explain each station to the kids in the following ways.
  - **CREATE station:** Using coloring supplies, find your way through the "Maze" Activity Page to connect the two people. Ask God to help you make peace with others.
  - **BUILD station:** Using LEGO® blocks, try to build a bridge. Ask God to show you ways you can be a bridge between two people, helping them find peace. Take apart your creation before moving to the next station.
  - **REFLECT station:** (*Leader stays at this station.*) Invite any kids who would like to share something for you to pray about. After any kids who would like to have shared, pray for the kids in this prayer station.
- Play quiet music in the background.
- Instruct the kids to remain quiet so everyone can focus on their prayer station.
- After 2-3 minutes at a station, encourage the groups to move to another station.
- Continue until each kid has gone through all three stations.

#### What You Say:

"This month, we've been learning about how to stay connected and switch on the power of peace. One way you can stay connected to God is through prayer, just like you did today! And when you're connected to God, you're also connected to peace. With the help of God's Spirit, **[Bottom Line] you can help others make peace** too. Let's pray.

"God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who has made a way to have a relationship with You. Thank You for the peace we're able to have when we experience a relationship with You. Help us see where we

can create peace—in our families, in our schools, and in our communities. And give us the strength to ask for help when we need it. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to share the mazes they solved to connect two people and share how they learned how they can help people who are in conflict make peace.



## GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

### **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.)**

*\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.*

## Story Exploration – No Supplies

### 1. Who Did It?

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

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

**What You Need:**

- Floor tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Print "Who Did It?" Activity Page on paper, one copy for each Small Group

### \* 2. Pass the Peace

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:**

- Small ball or object, one for each Small Group
- Print "Pass the Peace" Activity Page on paper, one per Small Group
- Music player, one for each Small Group
- Upbeat music

### 3. Letter Verse

**[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:**

- Bibles, one for each kid
- Whiteboard, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase marker, one for each Small Group
- Dry-erase eraser or cloth, one for each Small Group

### 4. Pray and Dismiss

**[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:**

- Print "Maze" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group
- LEGO® blocks, enough for several kids to build a bridge
- Music player, one for each Small Group
- Peaceful background music

### **HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience**

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app**