

Growing in Peace

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Bible Truth: My peace can grow.

Bible Story: Matthew 14:22-33

Bible Verse: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." (Isaiah 26:3, NKJV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: "Three Types of Peace"

Preparation

Write each letter of the word "peace" on a small sheet of paper. Attach the letters out of order to the top of a piece a poster board.

Divide the poster board into three sections.

Write each of these phrases on a separate piece of paper: peace with God, peace of God, peace with others.



Presentation

Say: **Can anyone rearrange these letters and discover the fruit of the Spirit we will be learning about today?** Allow a child to arrange the letters correctly. **Yes, it is peace. Can anyone tell me what peace means?** Allow a child to answer.

Some people think peace is not arguing with someone. Other people think of peace as the opposite of war. The kind of peace we are talking about today can only come from God. It is one of the fruit of the Spirit. This peace is being calm and strong in every situation.

Use the poster to explain God's peace. Say: **God's peace has three parts. Let's read some Bible verses to find out what they are.**

Ask a child to read Romans 5:1. **This verse talks about peace with God.** Ask a child to attach the phrase "Peace with God" to one section of the poster. **How can we obtain this peace?** Allow children to answer. **Peace with God comes to us when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins.**

Ask a child to read Philippians 4:7. **This verse talks about the peace of God.** Ask a child to attach the phrase "Peace of God" to another section of the poster. **This kind of peace helps you when you have trouble in your life. The Holy Spirit lets you know that you are not alone and that God is with you, so you don't have to worry or be afraid.**

Ask a child to read Romans 12:18. **This verse talks about peace with others.** Ask a child to attach the phrase "Peace with Others" to the final section of the poster. **The will of God is that we have peace with our family, friends, and even with our enemies. Peace with others means we will get along and not fight/argue with each other.**

Give each child a sheet of paper and ask them to illustrate a situation where someone has peace with God, the peace of God, or peace with others. Continue to give examples and discuss the three types of peace as children are working. When they are finished, attach their pictures to the poster.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Isaiah 26:3

Preparation

Write Isaiah 26:3 on poster board.

Explanation

Read Isaiah 26:3 with the students. Ask and discuss the following questions:



Who keeps us at peace? God

What do we need to do in order to have God's peace? Stay focused on God and trust in Him.

Say: **Let's make a list of things we can do to stay focused on God.** Write down the children's suggestions on a large sheet of paper. Include things such as reading the Bible, praying, remembering what God has done for us, spending time with Christian friends, etc.

Memorization Activity

Ask the children to stand in a circle. Toss the ball to one of the children. He/she should say the first word in Isaiah 26:3 and throw the ball to another child. That child should say the second word in Isaiah 26:3. Continue tossing the ball until all the children have memorized the verse.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Jesus Brings Peace," Matthew 14:22-33

Preparation

Read and study Matthew 14:22-23.

Materials

Bible
paper

Presentation

Allow the children to act out the story as you tell it to them. Choose one child to be Peter and another child to be Jesus. The other children can be disciples. If you have a large group, some of the children can pretend to be the storm by waving pieces of paper during the "storm" part of the story.

Say: **Jesus had spent all day teaching over 5,000 people near the sea. At the end of the day, his disciple got in a boat to sail to the other side of the sea, and Jesus went away by Himself to pray.** Ask the child pretending to be Jesus to "climb" a mountain in the corner of the room and kneel to pray. The disciples can huddle together and pretend to row a boat.

In the middle of the night, a storm came up on the sea and the disciples' boat was tossed around by the waves. The children pretending to be the storm should wave their papers. **They were scared!** The actors should look scared. **The last time they were in a storm, Jesus had stopped it, but Jesus wasn't with them. They didn't know that Jesus knew they were in trouble and was already on His way to help.**

(Instruct the children playing the parts of Jesus and Peter to act out the next part of the story as you tell it.)

Suddenly, they saw a man walking on the water toward them. They thought it was a ghost until they heard Jesus' voice. He said to them, "Don't be afraid. It is I."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," replied Jesus.

Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on the water. It was amazing. He didn't sink and neither did Jesus. Then Peter began to think about the storm. He looked around at the waves and the storm and took his eyes off of Jesus. He began to sink. Jesus reached out his hand and pulled Peter out of the water, and they both got into the boat. Immediately the storm stopped.

Discuss the following questions with the children:

Why were the disciples frightened? There was a bad storm.

At first, Peter was able to walk on the water with Jesus. Why did he start to sink? He took his eyes off Jesus. He forgot the lesson we learned from the Scripture memory verse. To have God's peace, we need to stay focused on Jesus and trust Him.

What kind of peace did the disciples need during the storm? Peace of God

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Creative Writing, "Peace Poetry"

Preparation

Make copies of the "Peace Poem" and "Peace Acrostic" activity sheets. (See note at the bottom if you speak a language other than English.)

Materials
copies of either "Peace Poem" or
"Peace Acrostic"
pencils

Presentation

Ask the children to write a short poem of about five lines. It doesn't have to rhyme. Instead, they should follow the pattern on one of the activity sheets. With the "Peace Poem" sheet, they will write a poem by filling in the blanks. An example is listed below.

Peace
Peace is blue.
It feels like a gentle breeze.
It sounds like the pages of my Bible turning.
Peace of God

With the "Peace Acrostic" sheet, they will write a description of peace using the letters in the word peace. An example is listed below.

P- Pausing to remember God
E- Every day
A- As I pray
C- Can help me
E- Enjoy God's goodness.

If you teach younger children, you can do this activity together on a large poster board.

*NOTE: The "Peace Acrostic" activity was written in English. If this does not translate well into your language, use the "Peace Poem" activity instead.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

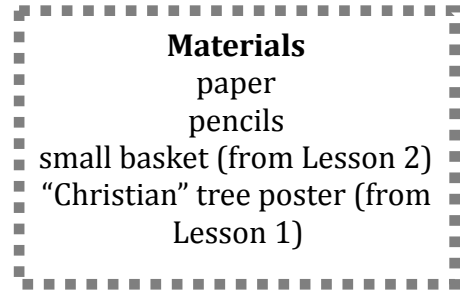
Place a small basket at the bottom of the "Christian" tree poster from Lesson 1.

Presentation

Give children a small piece of paper and a pencil. Say: **I want you to think about the kind of peace you need God to give you today. If you have never asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, then you need peace with God. If you are worried about something in your life, then you need the peace of God. If you have having problems with other people, you need peace with others.**

On one side of your paper, write the kind of peace you need from God today. Allow children to write. Give direction as needed. **Now, let's turn our papers over and make a list of ways we can keep our focus on Jesus and trust Him to give us the peace we need.** Help children write things such as pray, read their Bible, talk to a Christian adult, spend time with Christian friends, etc. When finished, say a prayer with the children asking God to give them peace. Pray separately with any child who wants to be saved.

After the prayer, say: **We are going to put our papers in this basket as a symbol of our trust in God that He is going to give us peace.** Allow children to place their papers in the basket. **As we trust Him, our peace will grow.** Take any fruit-shaped papers with the word "peace" written on them (located at the bottom of the poster from Lesson 1) and move them from the bottom of the poster into the tree.



Peace Poem

Directions: Fill in the blanks to create a poem about peace.

Peace

Peace is _____
(color)

Peace feels like _____.

Peace sounds like _____.

Peace _____
(with God, of God, or with others)

Example:

Peace

Peace is blue

It feels like a gentle breeze.

It sounds like the pages of my Bible turning.

Peace of God

Peace Acrostic

Directions: Use the letters in the word peace to describe what peace means to you.

P _____

E _____

A _____

C _____

E _____

Example:

P- Pausing to remember God

E- Every day

A- As I pray

C- Can help me

E- Enjoy God's goodness.