

Small Group Experience

LESSON 5 - “Jesus Is...PRINCE OF PEACE”



Watt's Up:

“When Life Gives Me Trouble, Jesus Gives Me Peace!”



Power Verse:

“The Lord gives his people strength. The Lord blesses them with peace.”

-Psalm 29:11

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Bible Story Name Cards Print Piece (provided; print one set)
- * Tape

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the Bible Story Name Cards. Once small group begins, ask for volunteers and pass out the name cards. Have each volunteer tape their name card to their shirt. To review the Bible Story, read the provided lesson excerpt aloud. As you read, the volunteers should act out the story. Pause at appropriate places to allow time for the volunteers to act out the parts. Continue on this way until the story is complete.

Say - I cannot wait to continue the story of how our wonderful mighty counselor Jesus came to Earth. We learned how Jesus is wonderful; we learned how Jesus is our counselor, we learned how Jesus is mighty, and we learned that He is our Everlasting Father! Let's get started by choosing some volunteers.

-Choose volunteers and allow them to tape their name tags to their shirt-

Say - I think we are ready to begin our story. I will read the story aloud and when it comes to a part where your name card is mentioned I want you to act out what is happening.

-Read the provided lesson excerpt aloud, pausing for the kids to act out the story-

Say - Today's Bible Story is from the book of Luke, chapter 2. It all starts with a group of shepherds taking care of their sheep out in the middle of a field late at night. As you can imagine, they were probably bored as could be. This was something they did a lot. Taking care of sheep can be quite boring sometimes, but they were about to get the surprise of their lives.

Suddenly, up in the sky, there appeared a huge group of bright, shining angels. They spoke to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid. We bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.” The shepherds were amazed by what they saw. Then, the angels began to sing, “Glory to God in the highest,” and “Peace on Earth!”

They told the shepherds all about the baby, Jesus, who had just been born in the town of Bethlehem. This baby, Jesus, was the Son of God who had come to Earth to take away the sins of all people. Jesus came to bring peace to the world!

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Then, just as quickly as the angels had appeared, they disappeared. The shepherds didn't know what to make of all of this. They looked at each other, then said, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened!” They ran as fast as they could until they reached the town of Bethlehem. The shepherds went straight to the stable where Mary and Joseph were. Mary and Joseph had to stay in the stable because there was no room in the inn. After all, the city was full of people because everyone had traveled there in order to pay their taxes.

The shepherds gathered all around Jesus, the Savior of the World, and worshipped Him. The shepherds learned that day that Jesus came to bring peace. When they worshipped Him, they felt the peace and the presence of God all around them.

Say - Thank you to all our volunteers for making the story really come alive. Finally it is the week we have been waiting for, Jesus comes to Earth!

Ask - Why do you think God chose to tell shepherds that Jesus had been born? Why didn't he choose someone more important?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Why do you think the shepherds felt peace when they visited Jesus?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Why do you think Jesus chose to come to Earth?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Plastic or Styrofoam cup (one per team)
- * Bowl (one per team)
- * Marker
- * Bags of dried English peas (one per team)
- * Plastic spoons (one per kid)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, gather the necessary supplies. Write the word EARTH on a cup for each team and pour one bag of peas into one bowl for each team. Once activity time begins, divide the group into teams. This activity will be a relay with a play on the words - “Peace on Earth.” To play the relay, each team should line up single file and place their plastic spoon in their mouth by the handle. Place a bowl of dried peas in front of each team. Several feet across from each team place an EARTH cup. When you say go, the first person in each team line should scoop peas into their spoon in their mouth not using their hands at all. They should stand and race to their team cup and dump their peas into Earth and race back to the back of their team line. The next person in line will continue on this way until each player on each team has a turn. The team who gets the most peas on Earth wins! This can be played multiple rounds as time allows.

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Say - Jesus came and brought PEACE on Earth. What better way to celebrate the arrival of the prince of peace than with a relay game? I am dividing you into teams and would like for you to line up single file. Everyone is receiving a plastic spoon which will be an important tool during the game. At the front of your team line is a bowl full of peas. That's right! I bet you can guess where this is headed! In front of your team line is a cup labeled Earth. Your job is to bring peas to Earth. There is a twist! To get peas on Earth, you must scoop the peas with your spoon, but the spoon must be in your mouth, you may not use your hands! Place the spoon in your mouth by the handle, scoop some peas and race to put the peas on Earth. We will continue until every member of every team has a chance to play. The team who gets the most peas on Earth wins!

-Play PEAS on EARTH relay, this can be played multiple rounds as time allows-

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * PEACE To You And Me Print Piece (*provided; print one per kid*)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the PEACE To You And Me Print Pieces. Once group sharing begins, give each kid print piece and begin. Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their life. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

Say - Today is all about PEACE! I asked you to scoop peas during our game and now I have given you each a picture of a globe filled with peas. Of course I am not talking about the vegetable PEAS on Earth because that would just be sad and gross if the whole world was covered in peas. However I am talking about PEACE on Earth. The peas are just a fun visual reminder, but the PEACE that Jesus brings is for real!

Ask - What does PEACE on Earth mean?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - Our world is not a very peaceful place. There are a lot of things happening that might make you question the truth of the phrase peace on Earth.

Ask - Have you ever experienced a less than peaceful earth? How did that make you feel?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - When sin entered the scene on Earth our perfect place to live was forever changed. Our world is hurting and broken and lost. A hurting, broken, and lost world can prove to be a difficult place to live. It sounds like a sad and hopeless place to live, but then one day a baby was born. A baby that would change everything for the better! Jesus came to Earth and with Jesus came PEACE. Not just any peace, heavenly peace that surpasses all understanding.

Ask - Would someone like to read the words of the power verse on your paper?

-Allow time for the volunteer to read the verse aloud-

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Ask - What does that verse mean to you?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answer with the group-

Ask - How should we share the good news of PEACE with others?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - God gives us strength and blesses us with peace! As if Jesus wasn't enough of a gift, he came bearing bonus gifts from God the Father. Peace for you and me!

Prayer Time

Say - Every single person on this Earth needs PEACE that comes from the Prince of Peace. Let's pray that the Peace of God will be known to all people. (PRAY)

Closing

Say - The shepherds were doing their usual routine. Watch the sheep, try not to fall asleep, watch the sheep, try not to fall asleep...so on and so forth. Things were going the way they always went until the sky was filled with visitors from heaven - angels! The angels came bearing amazing news. Jesus had been born and he was close by! Wisely the shepherds decided to find Jesus and worship the newborn king. Upon meeting Jesus they were immediately filled with peace and experienced the presence of God. This Prince of Peace was sent to save mankind and right our relationship with our creator forever! The same experience that was offered to the shepherds is available to you and me. We won't find a baby in a manger, but one meeting with Jesus and we can experience the peace and presence of God! That is available for you and me and everyone. Make it your goal this season to introduce someone to the Prince of Peace, Jesus! Thank you for coming today! I will see you again soon!

HELLO

my name is

SHEPHERD



HELLO

my name is

SHEPHERD



HELLO

my name is

SHEPHERD



HELLO

my name is

SHEPHERD



HELLO

my name is

SHEPHERD



HELLO

my name is

Angel



HELLO

my name is

Angel



HELLO

my name is

Angel



HELLO

my name is

sheep



HELLO

my name is

sheep



HELLO

my name is

sheep



HELLO

my name is

sheep



HELLO

my name is

Mary



HELLO

my name is

Joseph



HELLO

my name is

baby Jesus



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BLESSES THEM WITH PEACE." - PSALM 29:11**



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