

Small Group Experience

LESSON 5 - “God, I Need Peace!”



Watt's Up:

“I Will Come To God’s Presence When I Feel Stressed Out!”



Power Verse:

“Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” - **Matthew 11:28**

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

- * “Peace” Puzzle piece print out (*print piece provided*)
- * Bibles (several for the teams to share)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the Bible story aloud from **Luke 10:38-42**. Once you have read the story, divide the children into teams of two or three. Give each team a Bible. Call out a verse from the provided list for the kids to look up in the Bible. The team who finds the verse first will read the verse aloud. Award them with one puzzle piece. Move to the next scripture and do the same process. Continue until all scriptures are read. Once you have completed the scripture list have the teams come back into one group and combine their puzzle pieces. Give them 30 seconds to put the puzzle together. The puzzle should spell the word “PEACE” when completed.

Say - “I am so happy to see you all today! I am going to read a passage from my Bible. Once I have read this passage I will ask you to help me with an activity.”

Read Luke 10:38-42 aloud.

Ask - “What do you think Martha was missing?”

Say - “Martha was missing her PEACE! Not her game piece, not her hair piece, not her piece of pizza!”

Ask - “What type of peace was Martha missing?”

Ask - “Where does that type of peace come from?”

Say - “We are going to play a game called, ‘Find Your Peace!’ I am going to call out a scripture. Look up the scripture with your team. When you find it, raise your Bible in the air and say, ‘I found the peace!’ I will call on the first team that raises their Bible to read that scripture aloud. For each scripture you read aloud, your team will be awarded a puzzle piece. After all of the scriptures have been read, you will come back together as one group and combine puzzle pieces. I will give the group 30 seconds to put the puzzle together.”

Scripture verses to call out: John 14:27; 2 Thessalonians 3:16; Colossians 3:15; Philippians 4:6-7; John 16:13; Matthew 11:28-30

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Ask - “What do you think these scriptures are saying to you?”

Ask - “Has there ever been a time when you felt overwhelmed and needed God’s peace?”

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

* A game of “Jenga” (OR blocks that can be stacked like “Jenga”)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Give your small group a Jenga game or set of blocks. Give them 4 minutes to assemble their block tower. Have them set aside a couple of blocks to use as “buzzers” when answering questions. Tell the kids that you will be asking questions from the Bible lesson. To “buzz in” with the answer, they must use the block that was set aside by sliding it forward. Call on the first person to slide their block forward. Throughout the questions, you will say the phrase, “Without Jesus there’s no peace.” Instruct the kids to listen for this phrase. Each time they hear that phrase they should pull however many pieces you say from their block tower. For example you might say, “Without Jesus there’s no peace. Pull three blocks.” Make sure you have them pull enough blocks so that their towers fall by the end of the game.

Say - “You guys have a set of pieces that need to be built into a tower. I will give you four minutes to do this task. Leave a couple blocks free to be used for something else. Once your tower is built, I will ask you some questions about our lesson today. If you think you know the answer, slide the block you left out forward. I will call on the person that slides a block forward first. It sounds like a pretty simple activity, right? There is just one catch! During the questions, I will randomly say the phrase, ‘Without Jesus there’s no peace.’ When I say this, I will also call out a number. You must remove that many blocks from your tower! And, you CAN’T remove those blocks from the top level of your tower. Let’s see if you can keep the tower standing.”

Q. What are the names of the two sisters from today’s Bible Lesson?

A. Mary and Martha

Say - “Without Jesus there’s no peace. Pull three blocks.”

Q. Who was the dinner guest at Mary and Martha’s house?

A. Jesus

Q. Which sister was doing exactly what Jesus wanted her to do?

A. Mary

Q. What was Mary doing?

A. Spending time with Jesus

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Say - “Without Jesus there’s no peace. Pull two blocks.”

Q. What was Martha doing?

- A. She was busy cleaning and making preparations

Say - “Without Jesus there’s no peace. Pull two blocks.”

Q. Martha complained to Jesus about Mary not helping. What did Jesus say to Martha?

- A. Mary is exactly where she needs to be, with me.

Q. When we feel stressed who should we turn to first for help?

- A. Jesus

Say - “Without Jesus there’s no peace. Pull five blocks.”

Ask - “Why did the towers fall?”

Say - “The towers were standing just fine until they started missing pieces. Once pieces started going away they weren’t able to hold up under the pressure. There will certainly be times in life when things around us seem stressful. It’s important to remember that the only way to keep from losing our peace when we are stressed is to turn to Jesus for HELP!”

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Print piece which has a “giant blank puzzle piece” on it (*print one for each child; print piece provided*)
- * Scissors (*one pair per child*)
- * Markers or crayons (*one per child*)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Give each child a print piece, scissors, and a marker or crayon. Ask them to design their piece and then cut it out. Have them write things that might try to take away their peace on their puzzle piece. Once they have done this, have them cut out the puzzle piece. They will use them for sharing time.

Ask - “What are some things in life that can try to take away our peace?”

Say - “Use the markers or crayons to design your own custom puzzle piece. Write things that make take away your peace on the puzzle pieces. After you finish designing them and writing your answers, cut your puzzle piece out. You have three minutes to design your piece and cut them out.

Ask - “Would anyone like to share something that you wrote?”

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Say - “Earlier we looked up passages from the Bible that talked about the peace that God can give us. Those verses tell us that God’s plan for our lives is peace, not stress! Peace is a gift from God. He gives peace to his children. If you have asked Jesus to be your Savior, you can have the gift of his peace anytime, anyplace, in any situation!”

Prayer Time

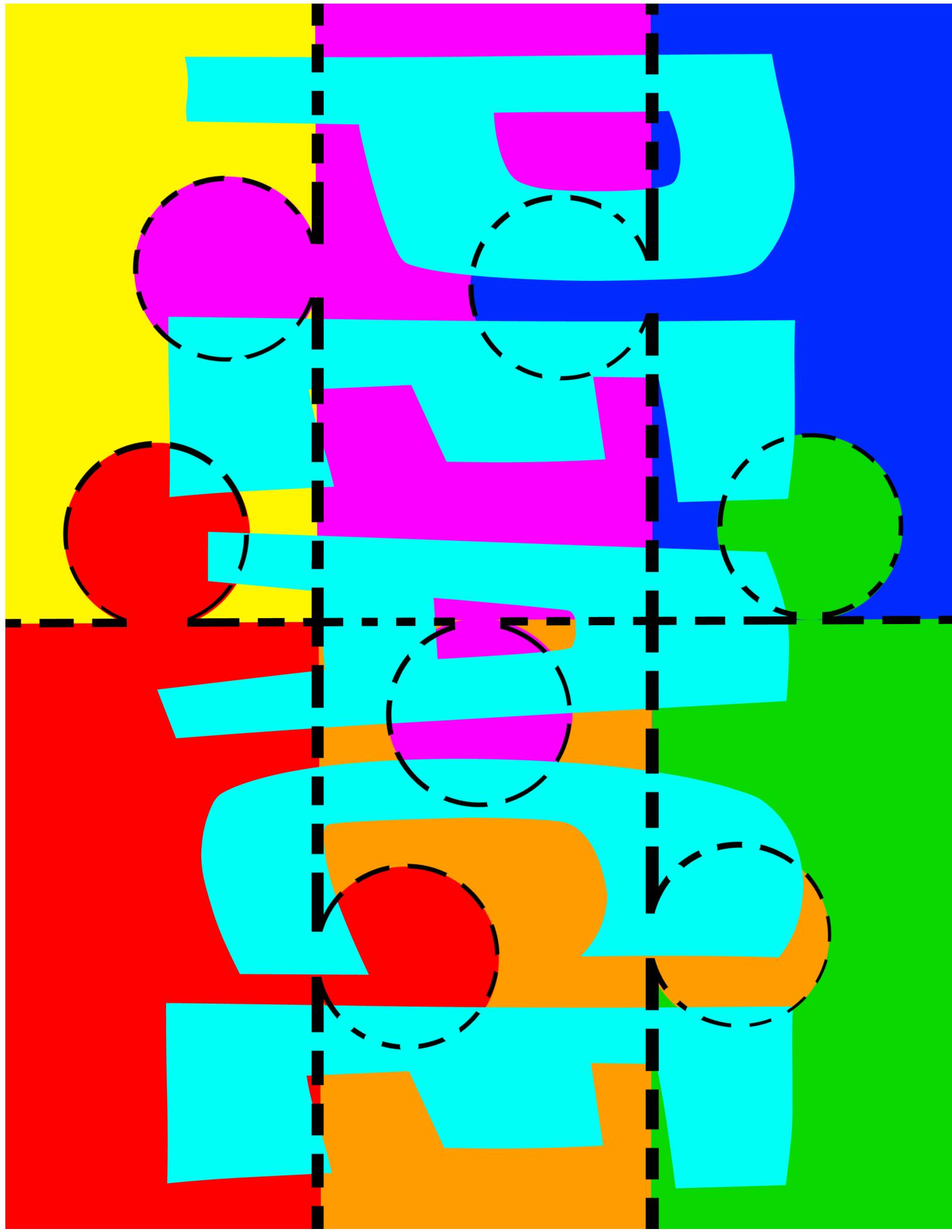
Say - “If there is anyone here who might be feeling a lot of pressure or stress right now, I want you to know that God is here for you! He wants you to be with Him and trust Him. Martha thought worrying about things would make them better. Jesus reminded her that Mary had chosen what was best - to stay close to Him!”

Ask - “I want to pray for anyone who might be feeling pressure and stress. We will pray that you will turn to God for strength, and that He will give you the most amazing gift of PEACE!”

(Ask the children to share any prayer requests for peace, then PRAY with them.)

Closing

Say - “There will always be pressures in life, that’s just part of living on this Earth. But, pressures and stress don’t have to steal our peace. We can have peace even when the pressure is on - if we turn to God. The Bible says in 1 Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxieties upon Him for He cares for you.” Isn’t that awesome to know? God cares for you! He cares what you are going through, and He wants to help you. Try it this week. When you are going through a stressful moment, stop and cast that care on Jesus, and in its place you will receive the gift of PEACE!”



“Giant Blank Puzzle Piece”

