

Alley SG—April 24th-26th, 2021

1. Opening Activity

What You Need: Bibles, decks of cards (2 decks per group), “Build a Bridge” Page (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Give kids two books and a stack of cards, about half a deck for each kid.
- Instruct kids to set the books about eight inches apart.
- Using the cards, challenge kids to build a bridge to “bridge the gap” between the two books.
- If kids master building a bridge, encourage them to move the books farther apart and try to build another bridge.
 - How far can they separate the books and still successfully “bridge the gap”?

Note: For a visual of how a bridge could be built, refer to the “Build a Bridge” Activity Page and/or this video: <https://bit.ly/3gmJ2si>

What You Say:

“You are master bridge builders—bridging the gap between the two books! I’m so impressed with your efforts and hard work.”

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Pens, index cards

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - What is a peacemaker?
 - How does a peacemaker act?
- Pair kids up into teams.
- Give teams index cards and pens.
- Encourage teams to write on the index cards (one idea per card) examples of what it looks like to be a peacemaker, who can be a peacemaker, what a peacemaker does, how they act, etc.
- Challenge them see how many ideas they can come up with.
- Discuss the ideas kids wrote down.
 - Which ideas and thoughts were similar?
 - Did any of the teams write down their own names?
 - Is there anybody who *doesn’t* have the potential to be a peacemaker? (*use this as a jumping-off point to talk about how anyone can be peacemaker. God has given all of us different skills to be used to be part of the solution; our job is to recognize the skills we have been given and to use them to be peacemakers.*)
 - Think back to those bridges of cards you built earlier. How is building a bridge similar to what a peacemaker does?

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Large pieces of paper (2 per group), ping pong balls, masking tape, cardstock

What You Do:

- Review the story by using the following to prompt discussion:
 - Who were the peacemakers in the story? What makes them peacemakers?
 - Who were not peacemakers? Why don't you consider them peacemakers?
 - What about the servants who told Abigail about David's plan? Do you think they were trying to be part of the solution or were they trying to cause unnecessary drama? What is the difference between helping and creating drama? *(This is an opportunity to talk about the motivation behind their actions.)*
 - What about David and his men? Were they peacemakers or anti-peace-makers? *(Potentially they could be both. They protected Nabal's servants in the fields. But when they didn't get their way with Nabal, their response escalated the situation.)*
- Pair kids up into teams.
- Direct teammates to stand across from each other, if possible, on opposite sides of the room.
- Place a large piece of paper in front of each kid.
- Set three matching ping pong balls on the paper in front of each kid, making sure the teammates across from each other have different colored ping pong balls.
- Give each kid a piece of cardstock.
- When you say "Go," kids fan their ping pong balls from their side of the room toward their teammate's piece of paper on the other side of the room.
- Basically, you're challenging kids to switch the ping pong balls from one side of the room to the other.
- Kids can only move the ping pong balls by fanning them with the cardstock; kids cannot touch the ping pong balls with their hands or feet.
- Ask:
 - It wasn't easy to switch places with those ping pong balls. I wonder how hard it was for Abigail to switch places with Nabal and be the one who approached David. Imagine you are Abigail—how would you have felt approaching David, knowing that it was Nabal's actions that made David mad?
 - What if two friends are in a fight. You didn't cause the fight or make it worse. How are you supposed to respond? What's your responsibility in terms of peacemaking? *(This could prompt discussion that there are times you aren't the cause but you can still be the part of the solution. It doesn't mean it's easy, but it's what we should do as followers of Jesus.)*
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4. Discussion Questions

- Why do Jesus followers consider Jesus to be the ultimate peacemaker?
- What are some reasons that we avoid being peacemakers in difficult situations?
- What are some ways we can be a peacemaker? *(If necessary, provide a scenario: If someone is giving you the silent treatment, what could you do to be a peacemaker? What if you are watching a show and your older brother walks in and switches what you're watching – what could you do to be a peacemaker?)*

5. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Butcher Paper (1 sheet Group, per Service), markers, "Verse Cards" (1 set per Group)

What You Do:

- Tear off a sheet of butcher paper and gather your group around it. d on your groups sizeer.
- Write at the top of the paper, "I can be a peacemaker and part of the solution by . . ."
- Shuffle the "Verse Cards" and fan them out.
- Instruct kids to pick a card.
- Ask kids to read their "Verse Card" and underline the words that could be used to describe a peacemaker.
- Using their verse to guide them, ask kids to complete the sentence, "I can be a peacemaker and part of the solution by . . ."
- Instruct kids to write their answers on the butcher paper.
- If time allows, let kids come up with multiple ways to finish the sentence.
- Discuss the sentences as a group. Use the questions below to spark conversation:
 - How can being slow to speak help diffuse a fight?
 - What does it look like to be gentle? And how can gentleness be a solution to bring peace? Would you describe Jesus as gentle? Why or why not?
 - What does it mean to not be proud? *(direct the kid who has the Romans 12:16 card to read it aloud.)*
 - How can being willing to forgive help you make peace with others?
 - Do you think memorizing Bible verses can help you to be a peacemaker? Why or why not?

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Do:

- Lead kids in prayer by saying:
 - God, You are the God of peace, and it is Your desire that we do what we can to live in peace with each other. Help us to be peacemakers by . . . *(encourage kids to take turns saying ways they can be a peacemaker. Encourage them to use the ideas on the butcher paper as a guide.)*
 - God, You created us in Your image, and You have given each of us gifts and talents. Some of us are good at making others laugh, and some of us are great at building others up. Some of us love to sing *(fill in specific gifts kids in your group have)*. God, help us to use these gifts to be peacemakers and to be part of the solution. In Jesus' name we pray! Amen.

PASS OUT GOD TIME JOURNALS...IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK COMPLETED, AWARD THEM ALLEY CASH.

