

# City SG—April 24th-26th, 2021

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

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.* Romans 14:19 (NIRV)

## 1. React or Respond

**What You Need:** "Scenarios" Activity Page (1 per Group)

### What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Assign one team to be "Team React" and the other team to be "Team Respond."
- Unpack what "react" and "respond" mean and how they are different.
  - Reacting usually involves acting without thinking.
  - Taking time to respond gives your mind time to think about how to be part of the solution.
- Pause after sharing each scenario to give the teams time to brainstorm.
  - Instruct "Team React" to brainstorm one idea on how the scenario could be handled poorly and end in a bad argument or fight.
  - Instruct "Team Respond" to brainstorm one solution on how the scenario could be handled well and lead to a peaceful ending.
- Give each team a chance to share their idea before sharing the next scenario.
- Switch teams midway through sharing scenarios to give everyone a chance to experience being part of a solution, i.e. Team Respond.

### What You Say:

"In all of these scenarios, you had a choice. You could make things worse by reacting or making a hasty decision, which would ultimately end in a bad fight or argument. Or you could be part of the solution to make sure the situation doesn't turn into an argument or fight. Can you think of some ways you can be part of a solution? (*Pause for responses.*) Those are great thoughts! Maybe you can help others see a different perspective so they can find common ground, or you can help brainstorm solutions that they might not have considered. Maybe you can muster up the courage to ask someone who is reacting to cool off.

"We face situations every day where we can choose to react or respond. We have the power to either make things worse or better! God wants each one of us to be like Abigail in today's story. **[Bottom Line] You can show you care about others by being part of the solution.**"

**[Make it Personal] (Share a time when you had a conflict with someone and instead of wasting energy on proving you were right, you chose to find a solution that would satisfy everyone. Maybe you made a compromise or just apologized. Whatever the case, help kids see the solution part of your example.)**

## 2. Peril

**What You Need:** Game Board and Reference Sheet (1 per Group), Note Cards (15 per group per service), Bibles, and pen

### What You Do:

- Tape the game board to the wall or place on floor where it is visible to the group.
- Ask kids to get into groups of three or four (or divide the group into three teams).
- Give each team note cards and a pen.
- Share that you will play a game similar to Jeopardy™.
- Explain how to play the game.
  - Point out the three categories: David, Abigail, and Nabal.
  - Under each category there are different questions related to that person, and each question is assigned a different point value.
  - Teams will take turns choosing a category and the point amount. You will then reveal the corresponding question and read it off of the Reference Sheet.
  - Each team will have 30 seconds to write their answers on the paper provided.
  - Let teams quietly and quickly look up the answer in the Bible if they can't recall the answer from memory. (Because the questions are "backward," you may need to repeat the questions a couple times and emphasize the underlined words on the question card, so that kids know what the subject of the answer is and what type of answer you're looking for.)
  - When time is up, all the teams should hold their paper in the air.
  - Teams with the correct answer will get the assigned points.
  - Teams with the incorrect answer will lose points.
- At the end of the game, whatever team has the most points wins.

*Note: There are 18 questions total. You do not have to go through all of them, if kids start to lose interest. If you choose to stop the game, inform kids that you'll be stopping in two rounds (or three, depending on what you choose), so that teams can choose point categories accordingly.*

### What You Say:

"I just love this story. I love how Abigail saw the problem and worked quickly to find a peaceful solution. She knew that fighting wasn't the answer. Sometimes when we think we're right, we keep pushing to make our point. But peace is about finding a way to fix the problem.

"Peacemakers are problem solvers, just like Abigail. What did she do to be part of the solution? (Pause for responses.) She was creative, wasn't she? This week, let's remember **[Bottom Line] you can show you care about others by being part of the solution.**"

### 3. Color by Number Verse

**What You Need:** “Coloring by the Numbers” Activity Page (1 per kid), markers

**What You Do:**

- Encourage the kids to recite the memory verse a few times together.
- Pass out the “Hidden Verse Coloring” Activity Pages and markers.
- Instruct the kids to follow the key provided to color their page.
- While they color, encourage kids to color this month’s verse in such a way that it really stands out.

**What You Say:**

“Wow! You did a beautiful job coloring! The bridge and this verse are great reminders that we should do everything we can to build each other up instead of tearing each other down.

“When you build each other up, **[Bottom Line] you can show you care about others by being part of the solution.** Like Abigail, God has designed all of us to be creative problem-solvers. We can be part of the solution in our homes, in our classrooms, on our sports teams, and in our neighborhoods. I’d like for you to take this verse home and put it somewhere in your room or on the bathroom mirror to remind you that God wants you to be a peacemaker everywhere you go.”

### 4. Pray and Dismiss

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask the kids to share one characteristic they think makes a good responder so they can be part of the solution to bring peace.
- Close by inviting the kids to silently reflect on one thing they could work on to be part of the solution in situations they face.

**What You Say:**

“Dear God, thank You for reminding us to do all we can to live in peace. We need Your help to work on *(pause and ask kids to silently insert the trait they feel they need to develop)*. Help us do everything we can this week to show we care about others by being part of the solution, even if that means that we have to give up something. We want to be peacemakers. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

**HAND OUT GOD TIME SHEETS.**

**Children will receive a prize when they bring their God Time Sheets back the following week!**