

Alley SG—June 19th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Why Can't We Be Friends? (Abigail Intervenes) • 1 Samuel 25:1-35

Today's Key Question: What are some ways to make peace?

Today's Bottom Line: You can help others make peace.

Monthly Memory Verse: "The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself." *Galatians 5:22-23a (NIRV)*

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, Tabloid Paper (1 per Group, per Service), markers, "Apt Adjectives" cards (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Give everyone a Bible and ask them to look up today's story in 1 Samuel 25:1-35.
- Once everyone has found it, assign each kid a portion of the story to read out loud (or get the group in a circle and let them take turns each reading a sentence or two).
- Have the group read through the entire story.
- On the large piece of paper, draw three columns.
 - At the top of one column, write the word "Nabal."
 - At the top of the next column, write the word "David."
 - And at the top of the last column, write the word "Abigail."
- Place the stack of adjective cards down and explain that kids will take turns choosing a card.
 - They will read the adjective written on their card and then will decide whether that adjective best describes Nabal, David, or Abigail.
 - They will then place it in the correct column.
- Ask some of the following questions in order to spark conversation:
 - What adjectives do you think others would use to describe you?
 - Why is it important to think about how others might view us?
 - How do you develop the reputation of a peacemaker?

2. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, prepared gift bag(1 per Group), Peaceful Verses Cards (1 Set per Group)

What You Do:

- Have kids sit in a circle and place the gift bag in the center of the circle.
- Select two volunteers and have them sit in the middle of the circle, facing each other, with the gift bag sitting in between them.
- Instruct the two volunteers to play a round of the "Silent Game."
 - Each of them will try to get the other person to make a noise by making faces or doing silly/random things.
 - Everyone else in the group can do things as well to try and get the two volunteers to react and make a noise.
 - The goal for the two players is to remain silent.
 - The first person to make any kind of noise loses the game.
- Once you have a winner, that person will first read the verse written all over the outside of the bag **(Galatians 5:22-23a)**.
- They will then open the gift, remove the verse cards, and pass them out, making sure each person in the group gets one.
 - If time allows, play the "Silent Game" again, with another two volunteers.
 - The winner can help pass around the rest of the verse cards.
- Ask kids to use their Bibles to look up the verse reference they received.
- Take turns letting each kid read their verse out loud for the group.

- As a group, discuss the benefits of choosing peace. It is like a gift that God gives us as we continue to trust through conflict and the issues we face. We can have peace in knowing that God loves us and is in control.

3. Discussion Questions

- Do you have an example of a conflict you were recently involved in that you would be willing to share with the group? How did you handle the situation?
- Do you find it difficult or easy to make peace with others?
- What are some ways you can take control of your reactions when the fight is right in front of you?
- If you are a Jesus follower, what does that show others around you when you choose peace over a fight?
- How can peace make change in the world around you?

4. Just for Fun

What You Need: “What Am I” cards (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle and place the stack of cards in the center.
- Kids will take turns picking the card off the top of the stack.
- Without looking at the card, they will place the card on their forehead, with the word facing the group.
- They should continue holding the card on their forehead while they ask a series of “Yes or No” questions to the group about their item, in order to determine what is written on the card.
- Before starting the game, give kids the hint that every item on the card is summer-themed.
- If kids need help thinking of questions to ask, here are a few to help prompt them:
 - Is it living?
 - Is it something that can be eaten?
 - Can this item fit in a backpack?
 - Can this item be used for several purposes?
- Continue playing until everyone has had a chance to play.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Index cards (1 per student), pens

What You Do:

- Tell kids that it can often be easier to choose peace when we are willing to take time to put ourselves in the shoes of others. One way we can do that is by building our empathy through praying for someone else.
- Pair kids up and give everyone an index card and a pen.
- Let them take turns sharing with their partner one thing they would like them to pray about for them.
- Help them consider what to pray for by asking the following questions:
 - Do you have anything that you’re really struggling with right now?
 - Is there anything specific you need help with?
 - Do you have any big decisions you need to make?
 - Are you in conflict with any of your friends or family members?
 - Is there anything you worry about?
- Encourage kids to write their partner’s prayer request down, and ask them to commit to praying for their partner every day during the week ahead.
- Close the group in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, Thank You for this group. We are so grateful to be able to have people who we know will pray for us. Please help us all to be more like Abigail when we are facing conflict. Give us the courage and the strength to be peacemakers, so we can make a lasting impact on the world. We want to point others to You! We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”