

City SG—June 19th, 2022

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

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. Fruit of the Spirit Hopscotch

What You Need: "Hopscotch Letters" (1 Set printed on Cardstock per Group), carpet tape, bean bag (1 per Group), Bible

What You Do:

- If you have not done so already, securely tape the "Hopscotch Letters" to the floor in a 1-2-1-2-1 pattern.
- Read Galatians 5:22-23a, asking kids to echo each fruit of the Spirit as you say it.
- Form a line at the end of the Hopscotch Letters.
- Read the memory verse again but pause randomly at one characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit.
- Invite the first kid in line to toss the bean bag on the Hopscotch Letter that is the first letter of the word you paused on.
- Repeat the word for clarification if needed.
- If the bean bag lands on a different letter, encourage them to name the fruit of the Spirit represented by that letter.
- They jump through the entire hopscotch then turn and hop back while pausing to pick up the bean bag to hand off to the next kid.
- Continue reading and pausing until all kids have had at least one turn and all fruits of the Spirit have been called.

What You Say:

"Great job remembering all of those special words! Each one is important for us to KNOW and DO. In fact, it's SO important that God gives those who believe in Jesus the Holy Spirit, to make sure we have all the help we need to put all those special words into action. One of those important words that we've been learning about today is PEACE. When you choose to stay calm, speak softly, and say kind words, you're helping to make peace. Just by choosing to be the one who doesn't yell can make a huge difference.

"Even when a problem isn't yours, **[Bottom Line]** you can help others make peace by stepping in and figuring out a way to solve the problem that's making someone upset. You can always go to a grown up and ask them what to do. Since peace is important to God, we can always ask for help no matter what the problem is."

2. Peace of the Story

Non-Reader Option Highlighted Below

What You Need: "Peace of the Story" cards in a paper bag (1 set per Group), Bible, white paper (1 per kid), pens

What You Do:

- Seat the kids together in a circle.
- Tell kids that you will read some statements about today's Bible story.
- Direct the kids to jump up when they think they know who the statement is about—Nabal (rhymes with cable), David, or Abigail.
- Call on the first kid you see jump up.

- Read the following statements about the Bible story.
 1. This person was wealthy, rude, and foolish. *(Nabal)*
 2. This person was clear-minded, wise, and a peacemaker. *(Abigail)*
 3. This person helped protect Nabal's sheep and workers. *(David)*
 4. This person turned away David's men and refused to help them in any way. *(Nabal)*
 5. This person took his men to attack Nabal when he heard how his men were treated. *(David)*
 6. This person was calm in the face of chaos and found a way to try to bring peace. *(Abigail)*
 7. This person accepted Abigail's apology and her gifts and agreed not to harm Nabal and his men. *(David)*
- Once the kids answer all the questions, direct them to stay seated in the circle.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen.
- Walk around with the "Peace of the Story" cards in the paper bag.
- Let each kid choose one card with a scenario on it.
- **READ The Scenario to the Child once they have chosen one.**
- Once every kid has a card, give them a moment to write/draw a couple of ways they could bring peace to the situation described on their card. For example:
 - Two kids in the lunch line fight over the last cookie. *(You can bring peace by giving away your cookie or speaking calmly to them in the midst of their anger.)*
- After everyone is finished, let a few volunteers read their scenario and solutions out loud.
- Make sure kids write their names on their papers then set them aside for "Pray and Dismiss."

What You Say:

"The thing I love most about peacemakers like Abigail is that they can help others see their situations in different ways. They can stop arguments and fights before they get out of control. God helped Abigail protect her home and servants from David and also saved them from Nabal's foolishness. If you choose to be a peacemaker like Abigail, sometimes you'll be successful in helping people make peace, but sometimes you won't. Abigail was able to help keep David from doing something bad, but Nabal didn't change at all. Abigail still chose to do the right thing.

[Make it Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate story of a time you helped others make peace or they helped you make peace. Maybe you got in an argument with a friend and your mom helped you see your friend's side of the story; or maybe your dad and brother argued all the time and you helped them make peace by speaking lovingly and staying calm.)

"You can't force someone to be peaceful, but you can still try. With the Holy Spirit's help, ***[Bottom Line]*** you can help others make peace."

3. World Peace

What You Need: Dominoes (10-20 per kid)

What You Do:

- Give each kid at least ten dominoes.
- Invite the kids to work together to create a domino reaction line.
- Allow kids to push the first domino in their line.
- Point out that their choice to push the domino down made the other dominoes fall.
- Help the kids get creative each time they rebuild the reaction line. (Use a small ramp if you like.)
- Allow the kids to build and rebuild for as long as time and interest allow.
- As kids build and knock down the dominoes, use the following to lead kids in a discussion about how one action leads to another, creating a wave or chain reaction.
 - When things aren't peaceful but we choose to make peace or be peaceful, it can cause a chain reaction and spread to others.

- While others may not choose peace at first, they'll see us trying to help make peace and choose peace instead.
- Our peace comes from Jesus, which is why we can choose peace despite our circumstances.

What You Say:

"You all are so creative when it comes to making a domino chain. What happened when you pushed just one domino? (*Invite responses.*) Yes, the other dominos fell, too. You can choose peace. But even more than that, you can help others make peace—just like Abigail chose to step in and make peace between David and Nabal.

"Have you ever seen someone help others make peace? (*Invite responses.*) [**Bottom Line**] **You can help others make peace.** But you don't have to do it alone! When we follow Jesus, we have the help of His Spirit. We can make choices that help others and show them what God is like."

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Solutions from "Peace of the Story" Activity

What You Do:

- Give each kid the solutions they wrote or drew for the "Peace of the Story" activity.
- Invite the kids to silently read what they wrote and think about it as you pray.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

"I am so thankful for true stories from the Bible like the one we heard about Abigail today. It reminds me that my choices matter and can affect how someone else's life and day go. The scenario solutions you hold in your hands are real ways [**Bottom Line**] **you can help others make peace.** Let's pray and ask God to help us with that.

"Dear God, thank You for this story about Abigail. Help us be peacemakers like she was in the situation she faced. Please help us listen to Your Holy Spirit and choose peace this week. We want others to see Your peace as we work to be peacemakers. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."