



LESSON 2: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Peace

MAIN IDEA

Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled God's promise of King and Savior. Jesus offers peace between us and God. This peace is offered to everyone who puts their trust in Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Luke 2:1-20
- Isaiah 7:14
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 5:10

MEMORY VERSE

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Isaiah 7:14, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bible
- Name tags
- A snack per child
- Name tags
- Printout 3, one per small group (cut beforehand)
- Printout 4, several copies for each small group
- Printout 5, several copies for each small group
- Printout 6, one per small group (cut beforehand)
- Paper plates (with the middle cut out)
- Scissors
- Glue
- White paper
- (Optional) Colored paper
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Plastic cups, 6-10 per small group
- Repair tokens (tickets or coins), 3 per student

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Begin with a discussion about the importance of peace in relationships. Ask questions like:

- **What does a good relationship look like?** (You get along with the other person, you like to spend time with them, etc.)
- **What happens when someone does something to you or says something that hurts you?**
- **Is it easy to spend time with someone who has hurt you?**
- **Why is it important to resolve conflicts and once again have peace in that relationship?**

Ask students how they would respond in different situations.

- **A friend took your toy without asking.**
- **You and your brother or sister both want to watch different TV shows at the same time.**
- **You feel upset because your parents said you couldn't go to a friend's house.**
- **A friend didn't invite you to their birthday party.**

There are times when we have people who do or say things to us that hurt us. We can get into arguments or fights with others, even with the people we are closest to. How we deal with those conflicts is important.

ACTIVITY: BUILDING A TOWER

We are going to play a building game to help us see the importance of repairing relationships.

Place all blocks in a pile in the center of the small group. Shuffle the Positive Action Cards and Negative Action Cards together.

Give each student 1-3 Repair Tokens (tickets or coins).

HELPFUL HINT

You may consider using, dominoes, or jenga blocks in this game.

Students take turns drawing a card from either the Positive Action Deck or the Negative Action Deck (Printout 3). If a student draws a Positive Action Card, they read it aloud and place a block on the Relationship Tower. If a student draws a Negative Action Card, they read it aloud and must remove a block from the Relationship Tower.

Students can use a Repair Token to negate the effect of a Negative Action Card. If they do, the block stays on the tower, and the token is discarded. The game continues until all blocks are used or the tower collapses.

The game is won if the players manage to use all the blocks and build a stable Relationship Tower. The game is lost if the tower collapses due to the removal of too many blocks. After every student has a chance to pick a card, discuss what they learned about positive and negative communication and how it affects relationships.

Say, It's important to make peace with others, whether that is friends, brothers or sisters, or parents.

Read Romans 5:10.

LEADER NOTE

Sin is anything that we think, say, or do that goes against what God says is right. Consider asking for examples of sin in our lives.

Right now, we are God's enemies because of the sin in our lives. What are some examples of sin in our lives? Our sins hurt God and keep us from having a relationship with Him. But God loves us and wants to have peace with us, and the only way to have peace with God is through faith in his son Jesus.

It is also important that we have peace in our relationship with God. Today we are going to talk about the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas and how Jesus helps give us peace with God.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

INTRODUCTION

- **Did you know that we don't have peace with God without Jesus?**

Say, **The Bible tells us that we are enemies of God because of our sin.**

Look up Romans 3:23 and read out loud.

- **What is sin?** (Anything that we think, say, or do that disobeys God.)
- **Who has sinned?** (Everyone has sinned.)

That means that everyone has sinned against God and fallen short of his standard. We have hurt God, and our relationship with him is broken.

Look up Romans 5:10 and consider having a student reading it out loud.

- **Because of our sin, what does this verse tell about who we are before Jesus fixes our relationship with God?** (We were God's enemy.)

Say, **Before Jesus came, we didn't have peace with God. Instead of peace with God, we were his enemies. Jesus came so that our friendship with God could be fixed and we could have peace with God.**

Let's take a look at our story today to find out why the first Christmas was so special and why the coming of Jesus was able to bring peace.

ACTIVITY: MATCHING THE QUESTIONS

Read Luke 2:11-14. Allow each student to have an opportunity to match up an answer with the question (Printout 6).

- **What is the first thing the angel said to the shepherds when he appeared to them? Why did he say that?** (Don't be afraid! Because the shepherds were terrified.)
- **When the angels appeared to the shepherds, what kind of message did they bring?** (Good news that will bring great joy.)
- **Who was the message for?** (All people.)
- **What was the Angel's message about?** (The Savior, the Messiah, the Lord has been born in Bethlehem.)
- **What was the sign for the shepherds to recognize the baby?** (The baby will be wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.)
- **What did the group of angels do when they all appeared before the shepherds?** (They praised God.)
- **As the angels praised God, what did they say was offered to those on earth?** (Peace on earth.)

ACTIVITY: WEB OF PEACE

Say, **This activity will help us illustrate the importance of communication, support, and understanding in maintaining peaceful relationships.**

Gather all participants into a circle.

Say, **This activity will demonstrate how each person's actions and words contribute to the peace and harmony within the group.**

Choose one person to start with the ball of yarn. This person will hold onto the end of the yarn and then throw the ball to someone else in the circle while saying something positive or peaceful about that person. For example, "I appreciate how you always listen to others."

The person who receives the ball of yarn will hold onto a piece of the yarn and throw the ball to another person, continuing the process of saying something positive or peaceful.

This continues until everyone in the circle has received the ball at least once and is holding onto a piece of the yarn. As the ball of yarn is passed around, it will create a web-like structure in the middle of the circle.

Say, **This web represents the network of positive connections and support within the group.**

Ask,

- **How did it feel to receive and give positive messages?**
- **What does this web symbolize in terms of our relationships?**
- **How can we maintain and strengthen this web in our daily interactions?**

Encourage participants to reflect on their role in maintaining peace and harmony in their relationships.

Ask them to think about one specific action they can take to contribute to a more peaceful environment.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Say, **We need good relationships in our lives. Although there are things we can do to fix our relationships, there are times when we need someone to step in and help fix broken relationships.**

We also need help to fix our relationship with God. Through faith in Jesus we can now have a good relationship with God, where we are no longer enemies of God but now have peace with him.

Ask,

- **What is one thing about Jesus you learned today?**
- **Why do we need peace with God?** (Because we are God's enemies.)
- **How can Jesus help give us peace with God?** (Jesus can fix our relationship with God when we put our faith in him to save us from our sins.)

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out the memory verse.

Say, **Jesus offers us peace with God when we believe in Jesus for salvation. Think of ways you have sinned against God and write them on the back of your memory verse card. Then cross out the list and write "peace with God" above or below your list. Because of Jesus we now have peace with God. If time allows, go through the memory verse with students. Finish in prayer for the students to be brought into peace with God through faith in Jesus.**

Finish in prayer, asking the Lord to help students gain peace with him through faith in Jesus for salvation.