



LESSON 2: PRIMARY 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:

- **Do you have a best friend?**
- **Who is your best friend?**
- **Have you ever disagreed with your best friend?**
- **Did you work out the disagreement?**

It's important to work out any issues with the people closest to you. It's a wonderful thing when you can once again have peace in that friendship.

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. 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 read 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: FINDING THE ANSWER

Option 1: Allow students to color as you read the passage and ask questions. (Coloring page is Printout 5.)

Option 2: Using Printout 6, have students find the answer to each question.

Read Luke 2:11-14 out loud.

- **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: WREATH

Wreaths are full of rich history and symbolism. They are usually made from evergreens and represent strength, as evergreens last even through the harshest of winters. Many people like to use them as Christmas decorations. Today we will be making our own wreath that will help us remember that Jesus came to give peace.

- Using Printout 4, take the paper plate and cut a hole in the middle of it.
- Use the colored paper and have students cut out desired shapes, or give them the opportunity to use white paper and color their leaves.
- Have students write and cut the word "peace", allowing students to color and decorate the words. Have students glue everything to the paper plate.

Hands



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

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Say, **This wreath is a reminder of the peace that Jesus brings. 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.

Encourage students to take their wreath home and put it in a place this week where it can be a reminder of how Jesus offers peace with God. Consider challenging your students to think of ways they have sinned against God and writing them on the back of their wreath. But because of Jesus they can flip the wreath around and see they 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.