



BIG IDEA

Jesus' peace in us helps us make peace with others.

GOD STORY

Making Peace (Matthew 5:21-24)

KEY VERSE

"Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness."
(James 3:18, NLT)

1 | Conversation Starter

INSTRUCTIONS

- To lead into today's story, ask: What images or words come to mind when you hear the phrase "the peace of Jesus"?
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **Jesus' peace in us helps us make peace with others.**
- Explain that when we don't experience or know Jesus' peace in us, it's difficult to make peace with others!

2 | Watch

SUPPLIES

- Media player

INSTRUCTIONS

- Watch this week's video from the Now Playing Kids playlist on the One Story YouTube channel.

3 | Discuss & Pray

SUPPLIES

- Bible

INSTRUCTIONS

- Review the video teaching together:
 - What was today's God Story about?
 - What stood out to you in the Life Story?
 - After David surrendered his life, how was he able to spread the peace of God?
- Emphasize that **Jesus' peace in us helps us make peace with others.** It's like breathing in Jesus' peace and breathing out peace with, for, or to others.
- Direct the kids to take in a big, deep breath. As the kids breathe in, pray, "Colossians 3:15 tells us to let the peace of Christ rule in your heart."
- Direct everyone to breathe out. As they do so, pray, "Romans 12:18 tells us, 'If possible, live at peace with everyone.'"
- Repeat and simplify the prayer. As the kids inhale, say, "Christ rules in my heart." As they exhale, say, "Live at peace with everyone."
- Say, "Amen!" to wrap up the prayer.
- Explain that when the peace of Christ rules in our hearts, we will live at peace with everyone if possible. That's a lot like today's Big Idea: **Jesus' peace in us helps us make peace with others!**



4 | Activity

SUPPLIES

- Spray bottle filled with water
- Sponges
- Markers
- Alfalfa seeds
- Shallow dish

INSTRUCTIONS

- Discuss:
 - What's the Key Verse for this series? ("Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness." James 3:18, NLT)
 - What do you think "plant seeds of peace" means? Are they physical seeds? What does the writer mean?
- Explain that the Key Verse uses seeds as a symbol to represent something. The seeds of peace are our actions. When we show peace, live in peace, or are peaceful, we plant seeds of peace!
- Discuss:
 - What happens when we plant seeds? (Something grows from them)
 - What do you think grows when you plant seeds of peace? (Depending on the translation, James 3:18 says righteousness, right living, justice, or good things)
- Let the kids know that to help them remember to plant seeds of peace, they're going to plant actual seeds today.
- Give each person a sponge.
- Encourage them to use the markers to draw a design or shape on their sponges if they'd like.
- Place a small scoop of seeds on each person's sponge.
- Spray some water on the seeds.
- Guide the kids to place their sponges carefully onto shallow dishes.
- Keep a small amount of water in the dish as the seeds grow.

5 | Key Verse

SUPPLIES

- Key Verse sign

INSTRUCTIONS

- Review James 3:18 together.
- If you created actions to go with the verse in Week 1, see how well your kids remember them as you do the actions and say the words together. If you did not already do the Key Verse activity, create actions to teach the verse to younger kids.