

## Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2024, Week 2

**Today's Bible Story:** Let Go (Abram and Lot) • *Genesis 13:5-18*

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can show you care by letting go of what's fair.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* Romans 12:18 (ESV)

**Monthly Virtue:** Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Give thanks to Jesus for making peace between God and us. Pray that the kids in your group would learn to let go of what's fair and instead choose to trust God no matter what happens. Pray for any kids in your group who may be exposed to ongoing, unfair situations. Ask God to position you or other adults in their lives to help them navigate those situations well.*

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

### **LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)**

**STORY:** Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

**WORSHIP:** Inviting People to Respond to God

Hang Time  
Welcome/Opener  
Worship  
Bible Story  
Bottom Line  
Prayer  
Closer

### **SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)**

**GROUPS:** Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Story Exploration  
Bible Story Review: Four Corner Switch  
Application Activity: To Peace or Not to Peace  
Memory Verse Activity: Electric Telephone  
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

**HOME:** Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)  
Devotionals for Kids  
Parent Cue App

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

*Use this if kids have questions about following Jesus.*

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word gospel. Clarify that the word gospel means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

If a child has expressed interest in following Jesus, please let the parents know so they can be a part of the conversation that their child is having about faith.

### What Now?

If you put your trust in Jesus Christ and believe in Him as the One who forgives your sins and makes it possible for you to know God, we are so proud of you! There is no greater single decision that you could make.

We believe that baptism is an important next step for you. Baptism is your way of telling your friends and family, “Hey, I'm a follower of Jesus!” If you're interested in learning more or participating in baptism, talk to a staff member about the next steps you should take.

## **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

### **Story Exploration**

Throughout Scripture, we can see how peace is something near to God's heart. Even though people chose to break their relationship with God, God made a way to fix that relationship through Jesus. And because we reflect God's image, making peace with others should be a priority for us as well.

In Genesis 13:5-18 we read how Abram and Lot's herdsmen were arguing because there wasn't enough land for both men's herds. Abram chose to make peace with Lot by letting Lot choose the land he wanted. Abram could have taken the best land for himself, but instead, he trusted God and allowed Lot to decide.

Sometimes creating peace with someone means giving up what might seem most fair to you. It takes a strong person to have the self-control to make a compromise and walk away. We pray that kids will learn how they can choose peace when it would be easier to argue and fight.

Here are some ways peace and following Jesus intersect.

**Humility and Selflessness:** Despite being the elder and patriarch, Abraham defers to his nephew Lot in choosing the land for grazing. This act of humility and selflessness mirrors Jesus' teachings on servanthood and putting others before oneself. Following Jesus involves humbly considering the needs and interests of others, even if it means sacrificing personal preferences or rights. (1 Peter 4:10)

**Conflict Resolution:** When tensions arise between Abraham's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen due to the scarcity of resources, Abraham takes proactive steps to resolve the conflict peacefully. He recognizes the importance of maintaining harmony within the family and seeks a mutually beneficial solution. Following Jesus entails actively pursuing peace and reconciliation in relationships, resolving conflicts with grace and understanding. (1 Corinthians 7:15)

**Trusting in God's Provision:** Despite Lot choosing the more fertile land of the Jordan Valley, Abraham trusts in God's provision and guidance. He understands that true prosperity and security come from obedience to God rather than material wealth or possessions. Following Jesus involves trusting in God's faithfulness and provision, even when circumstances seem uncertain or unfavorable. (Matthew 6:26)

**Choosing Peace:** After parting ways with Lot, Abraham settles in the land of Canaan without harboring bitterness or resentment. He prioritizes peace and reconciliation over holding onto grievances or seeking revenge. Following Jesus means actively pursuing peace with others, even in situations where conflicts arise, and choosing forgiveness and reconciliation over division and strife. (Matthew 5:9)

Overall, Genesis 13:5-18 provides a foundational example of following Jesus and living in peace. Abraham's humility, commitment to resolving conflicts, trust in God's provision, and pursuit of reconciliation offer valuable lessons for believers seeking to embody the principles of peace and love taught by Jesus.

## 1. Four Corner Switch

### [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

#### What You Need: “Four Corner Switch” Activity Page

#### What You Do:

- Assign each corner in the small group area a number—1-4.
  - For smaller or open space areas, assign corners of a rug or place objects around the space to mark four areas.
- Instruct the kids to gather in the middle of the small group area.
- Close your eyes.
- Direct the kids to choose a corner or section to move to.
- With your eyes still closed, pick a number—1-4—and call it out.
- After choosing a number, open your eyes and ask the kids in that numbered section to work together to answer a Bible story review question from the “Four Corner Switch” Activity Page.
  - If the group answers correctly, direct that group of kids to stay in the game.
  - If the group does not answer correctly, direct that group of kids to be out, and instruct them to watch the rest of the game from the side of the group space.
- Continue playing until there’s one winner (or a few winners)!
  - If you have a winner before getting through all of the questions on the “Four Corner Switch” Activity Page, invite everyone back into the game to play again.
  - If you run out of questions before you have a winner, continue the game without any questions (whoever is in the section you call out gets to stay in the game).

#### What You Say:

“You all did a great job remembering today’s Bible story! Abram had the right and the chance to take the better land, but what mattered to him even more was his relationship with Lot. He cared more about Lot than what was ‘fair.’ He let Lot choose first, which stopped a fight before it even started! And Abram trusted God not only with where to live, but also with his life. That’s true for us too! When you trust God, **[Bottom Line]** you can show you care by letting go of what’s fair.”

**[Make It Personal]** *(Talk about a time when you chose to let something go in order to keep the peace. Maybe a friend disappointed you, but you chose not to get offended by it. Maybe you were hoping for something special for your birthday, and when you didn’t receive it, you didn’t make a big deal out of it. Maybe it was your turn to go first, but you let someone else go ahead of you. Share a moment when you let go of what’s fair so you could show someone you care.)*

## \* 2. To Peace or Not to Peace

### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** “To Peace or Not to Peace” Activity Page, poster board, and markers

#### **What You Do:**

- Divide the kids into groups of 3 or 4.
- Give each group a card from the “To Peace or Not to Peace” Activity Page, a poster board, and markers.
- Direct each group to read the scenario on the card.
- Instruct the kids in each group to talk about what it would look like if they responded to the scenario in two different ways: (1) without peace and (2) with peace.
  - As kids are working and talking together, walk around and listen to make sure the “without peace” scenarios are appropriate.
- Ask each group to use the markers to draw a picture on both sides of their poster board.
- On one side, instruct them to draw a picture of how someone might respond if they weren’t showing peace, and instruct them to draw a picture on the other side of the poster if they were showing peace.
- One at a time, invite each group to share their scenario and drawings with the rest of the kids.

#### **What You Say:**

“You all gave really thoughtful ideas to every single scenario! It shows that how we respond to situations can change everything—most importantly, we have a choice to make peace or not. When we put aside what we want, we have a chance to show that we really care about others. Sometimes, it’s more important to put what we want aside in order to do something kind for someone else. After all, **[Bottom Line]** you can show you care by letting go of what’s fair.

“But sometimes, *something isn’t fair and it needs to be made right*. There are some situations where it’s important not to just let it go, but to talk to a trusted adult right away. If someone is being hurt, if someone is being made to feel scared, or if someone is in a situation that’s unsafe, it’s important to tell someone. God has given us safe, trusted adults in our lives to walk with us and help us in these types of situations.”

### 3. Electric Telephone

#### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

#### What You Need: Bibles

#### What You Do:

- Instruct the group to sit in a circle. Join the circle yourself.
- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Romans 12:18, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

**Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:** Guide the kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Romans in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Romans, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Romans. Help the kids find the page. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 18 in chapter 12.

- Read Romans 12:18 a few times together out loud.
- Instruct the kids to close their Bibles.
- Whisper the first half of the Memory Verse to the kid sitting next to you in the circle on your right.
- Instruct the kid sitting on your right to whisper what they heard you say to the kid on *their* right.
- Direct the kids to continue sharing the first half of the verse around the circle.
- When the first half of the verse travels around the circle to the last kid, instruct them to say what they heard out loud.
- If the kid repeats the first half of the verse correctly, celebrate!
- If the kid repeats the first half of the verse incorrectly, review the first half of the verse together.
- Repeat the process with the second half of the verse.
- Once the entire verse has been shared, challenge the kids to see if anyone can say the whole verse by themselves!

#### What You Say:

“That was so much fun! I love times when we can stay connected with each other. When we work together and care about each other first, we’re doing exactly what our Memory Verse says! We’re having fun and living in peace with each other, as much and as often as we can.

“That was a fun game, and may have gotten a bit silly. But this verse can remind us to care more about others than winning a game. As much as we can, we can choose peace when we’d rather choose what’s fair *for us*. Remember, **[Bottom Line] you can show you care by letting go of what's fair!**”

## 4. Pray and Dismiss

### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

#### What You Say:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember?
- How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission?

**What You Need:** Paper, coloring supplies, LEGO® blocks, markers/pencils, music player, and quiet music

#### What You Do:

- Designate three spaces in your area for prayer stations.
  - These will be the same stations as Week 1, but with different activities.
- In one station, place several sheets of paper and coloring supplies. This will be the "Create" station.
- In another station, place the LEGO® blocks. This will be the "Build" station.
- In the third station, place several more sheets of paper and the markers/pencils. This is the "Reflect" station.
- Divide your group into three smaller groups.
- Assign each group to start at one of the three stations.
- Explain each station to the kids in the following ways.
  - **CREATE station:** Using coloring supplies, draw a picture of something that you love. Maybe it's a favorite toy, sport, pet, or food. As you do, talk to God about how you can share what you love with other people in your life.
  - **BUILD station:** Using LEGO® blocks, build a shape of a heart. As you place the blocks, thank God for all of the things you are grateful for. Ask God to help you care for these things well. Take apart your creation before moving to the next station.
  - **REFLECT station:** Make a list of the five people you see most (parents, siblings, friends, teacher, coach, bus driver, etc. Think about who you put on the Friendship Chain when you arrived.) Put your finger on each name and thank God for that person. Ask God for help to make peace and treat them the way we would want to be treated.
- Play quiet music in the background.
- Instruct the kids to remain quiet (peaceful) so everyone can focus on their prayer station.
- After 2-3 minutes at a station, encourage the groups to move to another station.
- Continue until each kid has gone through all three stations.

#### What You Say:

"It's wonderful to spend time with God. We can talk to God and listen to God's words in the Bible or from the people God has put in our lives. When we spend time with God, we can remember that choosing peace helps us care for others better. And remember, **[Bottom Line]** you can show you care by letting go of what's fair.

“God, thank You for putting so many wonderful people in our lives. Show us how to treat them the way You want us to treat them. Help us to remember that it’s more important to make others feel cared for instead of getting what we want. And God, give us opportunities to practice peace this week. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show them the posters their group worked on during the To Peace or Not to Peace Activity.



## GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

### **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Story applies to real-life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)**

*\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.*

## Story Exploration – No supplies

### 1. Four Corner Switch

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:**

- Print the "Four Corner Switch" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group

### \* 2. To Peace or Not to Peace

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:**

- Print "To Peace or Not to Peace" on paper and cut apart, one set for each Small Group
- Poster board, one for every 3-4 kids
- Markers, enough for each Small Group to share

### 3. Electric Telephone

**[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:**

- Bibles, one for each kid

### 4. Pray and Dismiss

**[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:**

- Paper, several pieces for each kid
- Coloring supplies, enough for each Small Group to share
- LEGO® blocks, enough for several kids to build a heart
- Markers/pencils, enough for each Small Group to share
- Music player, one for each Small Group
- Quiet, peaceful background music

## **HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience**

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.

Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app**