

Peace

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PEACE - UNIT OVERVIEW

MEMORY VERSE: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6&7

Peace is often thought of as the absence of problems, but we who know Christ understand that real peace is the acknowledgment of the presence of Christ. Real peace does not disappear when there is conflict or problems, but is the outward evidence of someone who trusts in God.

This is extremely difficult even for most adults to grasp, and even more complicated for adults to exhibit. With this in mind, this month is going to be a challenge to teach our precious young people. It will become more of a reality to our children as we encourage them to daily trust Christ with every detail of their life and turn every problem, fear, and anxiety over to His care.

We need to be reminded that Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and is therefore supernatural. It can only be obtained as we regularly confess our sin, give Christ control of every area of our life, and ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit. Much of this unit will focus on us reminding the youth to focus on Christ and His Sovereignty in our life, and to constantly pray, read His Word, and memorize Scripture. We need to pay close attention to our students this month. When we see them frustrated, we can ask them if they are experiencing God’s peace. When they confess that they are not, we need to gently remind them that they need to focus on Christ and spend some time in prayer.

In this unit on **Peace**, you will find....

BIBLE CLUBS that will remind us of the faith of Mary that allowed her to experience peace, the way that the angel spoke to the shepherds and to Joseph to bring them into peace, the peace that Jesus had when He was a boy, and how Jesus desires us to experience His peace, even in our darkest hour.

PRACTICAL LIVING will teach the children to start considering their future by looking at different careers, how to be ready in emergencies and what to do when they are face to face with danger, how to also be ready when they home by themselves, and how important it is to get our feelings out through the mode of journaling.

READ ALOUD, CRAFTS, and **RECREATION** will teach them about how to recognize peace in others lives, to memorize Scripture through the craft projects, how to encourage others when they are not experiencing peace, and how to even experience peace while playing with others.

We pray that this unit will provide the foundation you need to begin to train the children at your center into godly men and women. We also pray that you will experience and demonstrate the peace of God as you teach this unit. “Peacemakers (and peace teachers) who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.” James 5:18

GOD'S PEACE COMES FROM BELIEVING: WEEK 1

WEEK 1 - BIBLE CLUB

LESSON AIM: To help the child understand that God's peace comes from believing God will fulfill His promises.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:5-56

MEMORY VERSE: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6&7

Mary Believes the Angel

This passage is familiar to most Christians, because we hear it often during the Christmas season. In spite of the familiarity of the passage, we must be careful not to overlook Mary's faith in God. Her faith in God may be one of the reasons she is "highly favored" by God.

The beginning of this passage we see Gabriel the angel visiting Mary to tell her that she has been chosen to be the mother Jesus. While Mary experiences fear (vs. 30) and confusion about how things will happen (vs. 34), she does not waiver in unbelief. The angel comforts her fear and explains the mystery to her, and then Mary responds in faith, trusting God's plan and committing herself to it.

Then Mary hurried to tell her relative Elizabeth the good news. She did not go to see if what the angel said to her was true, but went to rejoice with her, because she believed the angel. Verse 45 makes it clear that she believed that God would fulfill His promise. What is interesting to note is that Elizabeth's husband Zechariah had a similar meeting with an angel, but he did not respond in belief as Mary did. Because of his unbelief he received the punishment of not being able to speak (vs. 20). Mary, because she believed, was blessed.

The result of this blessing is peace and joy. She does not have to worry about the future, because she is assured of God's love. Mary, full of this peace and joy, writes a song of praise to God. This song of Mary's is full of reminders of how God has been good to her and others and how He has kept His promises in the past.

The peace that Mary had is still available today to those who chose to believe in Him. As we put our trust in Christ, He is able to give us His peace (John 14:27). Many people may get excited during Christmas time, but few have the peace of God. Although things in the near future may seem difficult, as they did for Mary, we can take heart and have peace because of our belief in God and His promises!

Discipleship
Tip

As you spend some one-on-one time with the children, share some of the promises of God that encourage you. Ask them if they believe the promises you have shared. Have them share promises of God that they like or other things that they believe about God. Remind them that when things seem out of control they can remember that God loves them and promises to never leave them nor forsake them.

 **Hook**

MATERIALS: Special snack - Birthday Cake for Jesus

- The best way to arrange the schedule for today is alter several things that the children usually look forward to and to have your Bible Club as near to the end of the day as possible.
- The staff should let the children know about the changes and express to the children that they should trust them in spite of the changes.
- They should not get any S.A.Y. Yes![®] dollars during the day, but will receive them at the end. Tell the children, **“We are trying something different today, so we won’t give our S.A.Y. Yes! dollars until later. Trust that I know what I am doing, even though its different.”**
- The recreation or gym time should be cut short, or perhaps even eliminated. Tell the children, **“We are having a special program later, so we don’t have time for recreation.”**
- No snacks will be given in the beginning of the day, but let them know, **“You will receive your snack later. Trust me that I know what is best for you and that I will fulfill my promise.”**
- Right at the beginning of Bible Club, let the children know that you are having a special party for Jesus. (Since the Bible Clubs for the next few weeks talk about the birth of Jesus, you could make it a birthday party for Jesus.)
- If you saved a few minutes from not having recreation, you could do a fun group/party game, have a piece of Birthday cake, and give out extra S.A.Y. Yes![®] dollars.
- Bring the party to a close, and go over the debriefing questions.

DEBRIEF

1. **What were some of the changes in the schedule today?** *No recreation, no S.A.Y. Yes![®] dollars at the beginning, and no snacks.*
2. **How did these changes make you feel?**
3. **Did you believe that the staff were making the right decisions? Did you trust them that they had your best interest at heart?**
4. **Did any of you think that the staff were just trying to be mean and take your fun away?**
5. **How did you feel when you heard that we were having a party? Did your feelings toward the staff change?**
6. **How do you feel when you know that someone in charge cares for you and has things under control?**

Bible Story

MATERIALS: Costumes for the actors: Leno Letterman, Mary, Elizabeth, and Zechariah, a desk for Leno Letterman, and chairs for his guests. You can have a sign for the show too.

The BIBLE CLUB is told in the form of a talk show. The name of the talk show can be changed if you desire (ie. Kay Leno, Terry Stinger to fit whatever talk show the children might be most familiar with.) In other curriculum units, such as Patience and Forgiveness, the talk show format is used, and the same name and host can be used in these units. The script is to be used as a guide. It does not need to be said word for word. The most important thing is that the actors really act and get into their part.

Script

Leno: Hello everyone! Thank you for the applause, you are really the greatest audience. Man have we got a show for you today! You will not believe the guests we have on today’s show. We are talking today about incredible birth stories. All of the guests on today’s show lived around 2,000 years ago, but by the miracle of television we are able to bring them on our show. Our first guests have an amazing story to tell. This couple was married for many years but could not have a baby. But finally their dreams came true. Let’s give it up for Zechariah and Elizabeth.

*Zechariah and Elizabeth enter the room and wave to the audience. They take their seats.
(We will call them “Zech” and “Eliz” for the rest of the script.)*

Leno: So tell us, Eliz how long did you have to wait to have your son? How old were you when he finally was born?

Eliz: Well, let me see....It was a really long time. I don’t really want to say my age on national television, but I will tell you this.....I was over fifty years old when John was born. And you know women never have children after they’re forty, so my child was blessing from God.

Leno: Why do you think God decided to bless you in this way? Why did he wait all those years to bless you? He could have done it sooner.

Eliz: Yes he could of, but he had a special reason. He was born to make a way for the Christ child, the Messiah who took away the people’s sin. My son was John the Baptist. He was born about a year before Jesus was born. If he would have been born much earlier, he might not have been able to do the job God had for him.

Leno: I see. How did you find out that he was going to be this special person. Surely you must have been shocked to see him out in the Jordan baptizing people.

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- Eliz:** Oh no. I wasn’t shocked, you see an angel appeared to Zechariah and told him before hand that he would do this awesome task. We were told that he would be filled with God’s Holy Spirit from birth.
- Leno:** Wait just a minute. Zechariah, did she just say that an angel told you this? Is this true? Maybe in her old age she is just getting a little mixed up.
- Zech:** No, she’s for real. She’s telling the truth. An angel of the Lord did appear to me and told me that John would be born to make the people ready to hear from Jesus.
- Leno:** And how did you respond when you saw this angel appear before you?
- Zech:** Well, I have to admit that I startled. In fact, I was gripped with fear. The angel tried to calm me down and all, by telling me not to be afraid, but how do you not be afraid with a bright and awesome angel standing before you telling you impossible things will happen?
- Leno:** Yeah, I see your point. Audience, can you believe this? An angel appeared to this guy right here on our stage. This is amazing! So I guess that when the angel split you must of called all your friends and told them the good news.
- Zech:** Nope. I couldn’t. I wasn’t able to talk.
- Leno:** What? You mean you all of a sudden got laryngitis?
- Zech:** No, I mean I was unable to talk. You see, not only was I afraid of the angel, but I also didn’t believe him. I doubted him, and Gabriel, that’s the angel’s name, caused me to be silenced until John was born.
- Leno:** Talk about punishment. You mean you couldn’t even whisper? Wow, that must have been difficult.
- Zech:** No, I couldn’t whisper. But it wasn’t so bad. It gave me a lot of time to think. I realized how foolish I was for not believing God’s messenger. Even though it seemed impossible for me for Elizabeth to have a child, I should have known God could do anything. I was afraid the whole time Gabriel the angel was talking to me, and I didn’t have any peace, so I guess I wasn’t thinking straight.
- Leno:** You know that happens to me sometimes too.
- Zech:** What you mean an angel has appeared to you too?
- Leno:** No, I mean sometimes I tend to not trust God and that leads to me being worried and not having peace. Sometimes it seems very difficult to trust God and have his peace.
- Zech:** Yeah, I know what you mean. I had to live with my mistake for nine months until John was born. I wish I could trust God more and experience his peace the way my wife does. She believed right away once I was able to find a way to communicate to her the good news.
- Eliz:** Well, I guess trusting God runs in my family. Take my relative Mary for instance. She had to trust God for a much more difficult experience than I had to. Now there’s a woman who really experiences God’s peace on a consistent basis.

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Leno: You must be talking about Mary, the mother of Jesus. Well, she just happens to be our other amazing guest today. Let’s bring her out and hear her story.

Mary enters and waves. She gives Elizabeth and Zechariah, who look surprised, a hug and sits down.

Leno: Thanks for taking time to be on our show.

Mary: Oh you’re welcome.

Leno: Zechariah and Elizabeth have just gotten done telling us their incredible story of the birth of John. You must have been pretty excited when you heard the news.

Mary: You got that right. I was in shock when the angel told me.

Leno: Oh no. Not another angel story again. You mean to tell me that an angel spoke to you too? Was it Gabriel or some other one?

Mary: It was Gabriel. How did you know his name?

Leno: Zechariah told me. So why did the angel go out of his way to tell you about John being born? Why couldn’t he just let you wait to hear the news from Elizabeth?

Mary: Well, he was there informing me of some other news; the news that I was also going to have a baby. I guess he decided to tell me about Elizabeth as a sign to me that he was telling me the truth.

Leno: Wow. The angel told you that you were going to have a baby too. Well, I guess your news wasn’t as shocking as Elizabeth’s. I mean you are much younger. At your age, having a baby is a normal thing.

Mary: I wouldn’t consider my baby a normal baby. I wasn’t married when I had my child. The Holy Spirit came inside of me and made Jesus to be born. My husband Joseph was not his father. God is Jesus’ father.

Leno: You’re kidding right? I mean you can’t be serious. I can kind of see how Elizabeth, by some miracle could have a baby in her old age, but having a baby and God being the father. Now that’s impossible.

Mary: You’re right it is impossible....with men. But Gabriel told me that nothing is impossible with God. Jesus is the son of the Most High God. He eventually died on the cross to pay the debt for all the sinners in the world.

Leno: Oh now I know who you are talking about. I’ve heard of that Jesus. It is said that if anyone decides to believe in him and prays and asks him to come into their heart and take away their sin, he will. I wonder how many of our audience members know who Jesus is?

Leno looks to the audience and children can raise their hand.

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Leno: That’s almost all of you. Your son Jesus is pretty famous. Hey audience, How many of you have prayed and asked Jesus to come into your heart and take away your sin?

The children in the audience have another chance to respond.

Leno: That’s great. Let’s get back to the story. So, Mary when Gabriel appeared to you, you must have doubted his story just like Zechariah. I mean your story sounds even wilder than his. You must have been unable to talk for nine months too.

Mary: Oh no. I was able to talk. I believed what God had said. I had total peace that God knew what he was doing. I remember my exact words to Gabriel...”I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.”

Leno: Wow, you have incredible faith Mary.

Eliz: You see, I told you she did. She was so excited when she heard the good news that she hurried over to see me.

Leno: You must have been encouraged to see Mary and hear her story.

Eliz: You’re telling me. Not only was I excited, but John was too.

Leno: But John wasn’t born yet. How could he be excited?

Eliz: When I heard Mary’s greeting, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Instantly I was filled with God’s Holy Spirit.

Leno: Oh, now I see. What a great ending to two incredible stories. You two women have incredible faith and as I can see now, an incredible peace as well. We are just about out of time for today...

Mary: Wait. Before we go, could I read a few lines of a poem I wrote about my experience?

Leno: Sure. That would be a fitting way to end the show.

Mary: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me --- holy is his name.”

Leno: That’s beautiful, Mary. A perfect ending to a phenomenal show. See you all later!

Week 1 – God’s Peace Comes from Believing

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FACT

What was special about Elizabeth’s and Mary’s births of their children? *(Elizabeth’s was born while she was old, Mary’s was the child of God.)*

Why was Zechariah unable to speak after he saw the angel? *(He doubted what the angel said.)*

What was Mary’s response to Gabriel the angel, when she heard what he had to say? *(She responded by trusting in what he had to say. She had peace and went and told Elizabeth. She said, “May it be to me as you have said.”)*

What happened to the baby when Mary visited Elizabeth? *(The baby leaped for joy inside Elizabeth’s womb.)*

FAITH

Why do you think people who trust God like Mary experience more peace than people who don’t trust God? *(Trusting God takes away your worries. We can be certain that God is in control.)*

Read Matthew 6:25-34. Why does Jesus tell us not to worry? *(Because God knows what we need, we are valuable to Him, and will take care of us.)*

If Jesus doesn’t want us to worry than what are we to do when troubling things happen? What will be the result? *(We are to seek first his kingdom, and trust in Him. The result is that he will provide what we need and we will have peace.)*

What can be said about our belief and faith in God if we constantly worry about things? *(We must not really trust God, or we don’t really believe that He loves us.)*

FULFILLMENT

What can you do the next time you are in a situation when you start to worry. For instance, if you didn’t have enough money to go on a field trip. What would you do? *(Pray, trust that God will take care of me, remember that He loves me and knows what’s best, ask God to provide the money for me if it is His will.)*

Is there a current problem that you are worried about? What things do you most often find yourself worrying about? Do you worry about if you will have food or clothes, if you will be safe, if people will like you, or what will happen in the future?

Do you realize how much God loves you? Do you realize that you are more valuable to Him than the sparrows? Do you want God’s peace right now? Let’s talk to God and tell Him what’s on our mind and ask Him to help us trust Him.

WEEK 1 - SKIT

Skit #1

SCENE: Bobby and Reuben are walking to school and talking.

Reuben: Hey, Bobby, how are you feeling this morning?

Bobby: Not too well.

Reuben: What's wrong? Are you sick?

Bobby: No. Last night when I was flipping channels I saw this preacher who was talking about hell. He made me realize what a terrible place it will be. I started to feel scared, because I don't want to go there when I die.

Reuben: Yeah, I know what you mean. I'm glad that I asked Jesus into my life and trusted Him to take away my sins. Now I really don't have to worry about that anymore.

Bobby: How can you be so sure you won't go there anyway?

Reuben: Come on Bobby. You've been going to S.A.Y. Yes!® for a while now. You have even asked Jesus into your heart, right?

Bobby: Yeah, but how can I know for sure? Why are you so confident?

Reuben: Well, I guess I just believe what the Bible says. God wouldn't lie to us. John 3:16 says "that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." That is a promise. God is trustworthy and can be counted on to keep His promises.

Bobby: You know, you're right. God never has broken one of his promises. I feel a whole lot more peaceful. Where were you last night when I needed you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Why was Bobby fearful?** *(He wasn't sure if he was going to heaven when he died.)*
2. **Why was Reuben so confident that he was going to heaven?** *(He had trusted Jesus as his Lord and Savior, and believed God would keep His promise in His Word.)*
3. **Should we be fearful of where we are going when we die?** *(Yes, if you have not trusted Jesus to forgive you. No, if you have. Be confident that God will keep His promise.)*

Skit # 2

SCENE: LaTasha and Maria are eating lunch in the school cafeteria together.

LaTasha: I'm sure glad its lunch time. I'm starving.

Maria: Yeah, me too! I thought Math time was never going to end.

LaTasha: Do you have anything good to eat? I have an apple, and I know you like apples. Do you have anything good to trade?

Maria: Yeah, I have a banana or chips I would be willing to trade. Which one do you want?

LaTasha: I'll take the chips. (Takes them from Maria.) Thank you very much.

Maria: Well, enjoy it while it lasts. I might not have anything good to trade for awhile. Come to think of it, I might not have anything to trade or eat myself for that matter. Yesterday, my dad lost his job. The company said that his position was no longer needed.

LaTasha: So that's why you've been looking sad all day today. But what did you mean when you said you might not have anything to eat?

Maria: Well, money is going to be tight now, and we might not have enough money to buy food. We might end up eating at the homeless shelter around the corner.

LaTasha: Come on Maria, where is your faith? Don't you know that God always takes care of His children? Has He ever let you down before? Don't you remember that time we went to the movies and you forgot your money at home. Remember how God sent that nice woman behind us in line and how she offered to pay for your ticket? God always finds ways to take care of His children, especially when it comes to important things like food.

Maria: I guess you're right. I just get a little carried away. My dad looked very sad when he came home and I got a little worried.

LaTasha: Besides, you're my best friend. Do you think I would let you starve? You have lots of friends who will help you out. God knows how to help you out when you need it most.

Maria: Thanks for reminding me about how awesome God is. He does love me and He won't leave my family helpless. He specializes in tough situations.

Week 1 – God’s Peace Comes from Believing

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was Maria so upset about?** *(Her father lost his job, and she was afraid that they wouldn't have enough money to eat.)*
2. **What did LaTasha say that encouraged her?** *(She reminded Maria that God loves her and will provide for all of her needs. She didn't need to worry, but trust God.)*
3. **Is it really true? Can we trust God with our problems? Would God ever leave us stranded in a tough situation, like making us go without food?** *(We don't have to worry. We are God's children and He will take care of us. We may sometimes have to go through rough times, but He will always provide what we need if we trust Him. He may not give us what we want, but will take care of our needs.)*

WEEK 1 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6,7

EXPLANATION OF THE VERSE

These verses are great promises to us that God will give us His incredible peace if we bring our problems to Him. He does not promise us that He will work things out the way we want, but He will give us peace. We are commanded not to be anxious, so when we are constantly walking around worrying about things, we are in sin. This verse also mentions that spending time thanking God for what He will do and what He has already done helps to bring us peace.

As we explain this verse to the children, we need to be prepared to explain what the words “anxious,” “petition,” and “transcends” mean.

TEACHING THE VERSE

- Let the children know from the start that the verse for this unit is pretty long, and that it will require a little more concentration and work. It would be a good idea to promise them that they will receive more S.A.Y. Yes!® dollars than normal for memorizing this verse. Let them know that at the end of the day they will receive a piece of paper with the verse written on it to help practice it at home. Make copies of the following memory verse sheet so that each child can have a copy. You can decide to focus on verse six the first two weeks and verse seven the last two weeks.
- Have the verse written on the board, or pinned to a bulletin board in the following phrases: 1. Do not be anxious for anything 2. but in everything 3. by prayer and petition 4. with thanksgiving 5. present your requests to God 6. And the peace of God 7. which transcends all understanding 8. will guard your hearts and your minds 9. in Christ Jesus.
- Divide your group into three smaller groups. Assign the first group numbers 1, 4, &7, the second group numbers 2, 5, &8, and the third group numbers 3, 6, & 9.
- Read through the verse a few times at first.
- Then go through the lines having each group stand up and say their line when it is their turn. Everyone says “Philippians 4:6 and 7” together.
- One leader will listen to which team says their part the clearest, fastest, loudest, and most on time. They can assign points to the winning team.
- After several times through, switch it so that the different groups say the other parts of the verse.

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- After each group has had all the three different groups of lines, see if the class can say the verse on their own without looking. Give one or two individuals a chance to say it.

Hide a Verse

MATERIALS: The verse written on a chalk board or pinned on a bulletin board, and a sheet of paper with the verse written on it.

OBJECT: For “It” to find the hidden verse as the children direct him by the loudness or softness of their voices.

- Ask for a volunteer to be “It” and to leave the room.
- When “It” leaves the room another player takes a sheet of paper with the verse written on it and hides it somewhere in the room.
- “It” returns to the room to find the hidden verse.
- The children read the verse over and over as “It” hunts for the verse.
- The children get louder when “It” gets close to the hidden verse, they then soften their voices if “It” begins to walk away from the hidden verse.
- After “It” finds the verse, choose a new player to be “it.”
- For the last round, choose the player who thinks “they know it all” to be the last person.
- After they leave the room, hide the verse in the back pocket of the game leader.
- When “It” walks back in the game leader also walks around the room, making it impossible for “It” to ever get close to finding the verse.
- Stop the game after a few minutes of unsuccessful attempts to find the verse.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6,7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6,7

WEEK 1 - PRACTICAL LIVING

Thinking About Careers

MATERIALS: Copies of the following sheet, pencils, a large board or paper to write on, and a writing utensil for the board.

This practical living is to help the children to start to think about what they want to be when they get older, and to have peace about the future by trusting that God will guide them.

- Start off by saying something like, **“Many people are a little nervous when they think about the future. Some wonder how long they will live, others worry that they will lose their job or not have enough to eat, and others aren’t sure of what they’ll be doing when they get older. Do you think God wants us to worry about the future, or to trust that He will take care of us? Of course, God wants us to trust Him. Listen to this verse.”**
- Read Psalm 139:13-16 and ask the following questions; **1. What does God say about us in this verse? 2. What does He say about our future?** (That He has all of our days written out already.) **3. So do we need to worry about the future or what we will become?** (No.)
- Tell the students **“God has a wonderful plan for our lives. He wants us to succeed and do well. Part of this involves following His will for what He wants us to become. Take a look at this list that I am passing out. Read over the occupations silently to yourself.”**
- Pass out the following sheet. Read through it with the children. Have them raise their hand as you read each occupation if they think that might be an interesting job. Tell them to ask you what a particular occupation means if they don’t know.
- Ask them, **1. How do you think a person would find out what God wanted him to do? 2. Should they just choose a job that looks fun? 3. Should they just choose a job that makes the most money? 4. Which of these jobs would require more training than just high school? 5. If you asked God what He wanted you to become, how would He let you know? Would He let you know?**
- Tell the children, **“If you ask God what He wants you to become, He might show you in different ways. He may give you certain gifts and talents that would make you good for a certain job. He may give you an interest in a particular field. He may have people come and tell you, ‘You would make a good _____.’ No matter how He does it, the key though, is listening for His voice, and spending time praying and asking Him for guidance.”**
- Have the children put a circle around their top five choices of what they might like to become. Challenge them to pray about and seek God’s answer.

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- If time allows, you can have one person at a time come up and act out one of the professions on the paper, and have the other students guess.
- Also if you have time, you can allow the students to share what profession they would most want to become if they had to choose right now.
- For boys it is also important to help them realize that there is very little chance of them ever becoming professional athletes. Tell them that “the number of males who are struck by lightning every year is greater than number of those who make it as a professional athlete.” They better have another profession lined up that they should shoot for instead, in case their dream to become an athlete does not come true.
- Also remind them the purpose of having a career is to find out how a person can be most used by God to serve others, not to make lots of money, or even to have fun. In light of this, who will probably be able to help more people a professional basketball star or a doctor, teacher, etc.

Different Types of Careers

What are your top five professions? Circle them.

Accountant	Florist	Pastor
Actor/Actress	Forestry	Pharmacist
Advertisement	Funeral Director	Photographer
Airplane pilot	Gas Station Attendant	Physical Therapist
Ambassador	Geologist	Physics Scientist
Anthropologist	Government official	Plastic designer/maker
Archaeologist	Grocer	Plumber
Architect	Hairdresser	Police Officer
Army Personnel	Heating and Air Conditioning	Postal Worker
Artist	Helper of Handicapped	Principal
Astronaut	Horse Trainer	Printer
Astronomer	Hospital employee	Professor
Automobile salesman, maker, worker	Hotel manager	Psychiatrist
Auto Mechanic	Industry personnel	Publisher
Ballet, ballerina	Insurance salesman	Radio Announcer
Banker	Interior Decorator	Railroad attendant
Biologist	Inventor	Retail Worker
Book keeper	Iron Worker	Real Estate Agent
Business man	Janitor	Researcher
Bus / Cab Driver	Journalist	Restaurant Owner
Carpenter	Judge	Sales Person
Chemist	Lawyer	Sailor
Chiropractor	Librarian	S.A.Y. Yes!® Staff
City Planner	Locksmith	Scientist
Clothing manufacturer or designer	Marine Biologist	Social Worker
Computer Designer	Mathematician	Speech Therapist
Computer Programmer	Mechanical Drawer	Surveyor
Construction Worker	Mine worker	Taxidermist
Counselor	Missionary	Teacher
Dentist	Model	Telephone Operator
Detective	Museum Worker	Television Personnel
Doctor	Musician	Theater Attendant
Economist	Navy Personnel	Tool Maker
Electrician	News Reporter	Truck Driver
Engineer	Nuclear Energy Technician	Veterinarian
Environmentalist	Nurse	Writer
Farmer	Oceanographer	Zoologist
Fast Food Worker	Office Worker	Other _____
Fireman	Oil Worker	Other _____
Flight Attendant	Optometrist	Other _____

WEEK 1 - READ-ALOUD

“David and Goliath”

1 Samuel 17:1-58

From a Children’s book or Children’s Bible, a Children’s Video Series, or the Living Bible. This story was chosen, because it is an excellent example of this week’s theme.

SUMMARY: This story is about David when he was a teenager. The Israelites are being challenged by a giant warrior who was over nine feet tall. Everyone is afraid to fight him, but then David comes along and hears the giant defying God. David offers to fight the giant, and is not afraid, because he has faith in God. He trusts in God, and goes out to meet the giant armed with only a sling shot and a few stones. David defeats Goliath, because he trusted in God. Israel is able to have victory.

Teaching Tip: I suggest getting a children’s video and showing it during the read aloud time. Even though it is not officially “reading” having a video offers a little variety, and helps communicate this incredible story. If you choose not to go this route, many Christian book stores have this story in the form of a children’s book. Even just reading the story directly from the Bible is not a bad idea. Even though the children may be familiar with this story, they can pick up more of the details as they listen to it during read aloud time.

PRE READING QUESTIONS

1. How many of you have heard of the story of David and Goliath before?
2. Can it ever be beneficial to hear a story more than once? What good would it do to hear a that you have already heard again for another time? *(Yes. It can help you to remember it better, you can learn new details that you might not have picked up the first time, or it might help you to really understand it if you did not the first time.)*
3. Do you think that there ever was a real giant living on the earth? How tall do you think a person has to be before he is called a giant? How tall do you think Goliath was? *(Yes there were several people who were Philistines from a town called Gath who were very tall. There were no people like the giant in Gulliver’s Travel, however. We will find out how tall Goliath is in the story.)*

LISTENING QUESTIONS

As we watch the video (or read the story), listen for the answers to these questions and we will answer them after the story.

1. How tall was Goliath? How heavy was his armor? *(He was over nine feet tall. His armor weighed about 125 pounds. Just the point on his huge spears weighed 15 pounds each.)*

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- 2. Why did some people think that David shouldn’t fight Goliath? What was David’s response to those arguments?** *(They thought he was too young, too small, and unskilled in battle. David informed them that he had killed a bear and lion with his own hands.)*
- 3. Was David fearful as he faced Goliath? Why or why not?** *(No. He trusted in the Lord to protect him. He realized that Goliath was saying bad things against God and His people, so he knew that God would give him the victory.)*

POST READING QUESTIONS

First, answer the listening questions and then use these for your discussion time.

- 1. Close your eyes for a moment, and put yourself in David’s shoes. You are standing before a nine foot angry looking giant with his huge spear pointed right at you. How do you think you would feel?**
- 2. How is it that most of us in this room would be terrified to be standing before a giant, but that David was able to have peace? Why was he able? What makes him any different from us?**
- 3. What might of happened to David and the Israelites if he allowed fear and terror to take over in his heart?**
- 4. Do you truly believe God can protect you in any danger? What can you do when you are scared so that you can have peace?** *(You can talk to God, confess your fears to Him, ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you do what is right, even if you are afraid. You can quote memory verses to help remind you of God’s presence.)*

WEEK 1 - CRAFTS

✂ Door Blessings

MATERIALS: Poster board (enough to cut 4" X 9.5" pieces for everyone in the class), scissors, fine line markers, and possibly calligraphy pens (small tip), something to help the children draw a circle approx. 2.75" (the bottom of a pop can would work well.)

This week we will make colorful doorknob decorations, also known as "door blessings."

- **Pre-craft set-up:** beforehand, take the poster board and cut it into pieces that measure approximately 4" x 9.5". Make enough for everyone in the class to have and a few extras in case mistakes are made.
- Since this is the first week and the children may not know the memory verse yet, you may need to write the memory verse on the board, or give little strips to the children with the verse written on it. They will be writing the verse on their door blessing.
- For the older children, you can get calligraphy pens for them to write the verse on their door blessing. (Note: calligraphy pens can also be used for the craft on the forth week, so it may be a good investment. They come in felt tip pens. Make sure they are not the special kind that need ink cartridges - because this would make it a little too complicated.) Have a chart on how to make the letters of the alphabet. Go simple, because elaborate designs take longer to learn, and are more difficult. Have the children practice writing the letters. For the younger children, have them practice writing their verse small enough to fit on the door blessing, but big enough to read from a distance.
- Once the children have finished practicing making the letters, pass out the poster board pieces, pencils, the pop cans (or whatever you decided to use to trace a circle on their door blessings for the knob to fit), and the scissors.
- Have the children place the pop can or circle stencil at the top of their piece of poster board. Make sure that it is centered, and then they can trace around it with a pencil.
- Have them take their scissors and cut into the circle from one of the edges and cut out the middle. If they want, they can also round the corners of the poster board piece to make it more decorative.
- Now it is time for them to write the verse on the door blessing neatly. They can first do it in pencil if they want so they can erase mistakes. For children with poor hand writing and for younger children, you may want to have a staff member write the verse neatly for the child. They can take a marker and go over the lines the staff member drew.
- If there is still time, they can decorate the edges using fine tip markers to make designs, or to color it in.

WEEK 1 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Set-up Teams

MATERIALS: students divided into two teams, (the list should be prepared by the staff in advance), poster board, and marker.

OBJECT: To help the children experience peace with the team that they are assigned to.

SET UP:

- Create two permanent teams. These teams will play against each other most of the days during recreation. These teams will change every month. This gives the students a chance to play on a winning team if they were not on one in the past.
- You will want to make sure that the teams are evenly matched age wise.
- You may want to sit down as a Staff team and decide who will be on what teams.
- Be sure and keep your lists from the previous months so that you can remember who played together in the past.

TO PLAY:

- Have each team come up with a team name. It can be whatever they want. The names that many students like best are ones that have to do with their relationship with Jesus. Acronyms are fun to use too.
- Have each team create a team cheer. (Raps are fun too!)
- Remember that during recreation winning isn't as important as participation, a good attitude and spirit.
- Make posters which you will keep up and post the scores.

THE PEACEMAKERS		THE PEACE SIGNS	
COMPETITION	SPIRIT POINTS	COMPETITION	SPIRIT POINTS
1,000	20,000	2,000	10,000
1,000	10,000	1,000	30,000

Week 1 – God’s Peace Comes from Believing

- Note that the ultimate winners are the ones with the highest spirit points, not the winners of the competitions.
- At the end of each week you can give out S.A.Y. Yes!® dollars in accordance with the points. Every 1,000 points may be worth 1 dollar and every 10,000 spirit points may be worth 2 dollars.
- The coordinator of recreation assigns the points.
- The poster needs to be placed where the kids can see it.
- Be sure to talk about making right choices to earn Spirit Points. What are some things they can do to earn Spirit Points? Participate in everything, cheer on teammates, don’t cheat, don’t complain, don’t tease or call names, etc..
- Give competition points out in one thousand increments and Spirit Points in ten thousand increments.
- Have the two teams do their cheers. Begin the scoring with this activity. How many of the kids participated? How did they encourage each other? How creative was the cheer? Did it include physical activity? (Making a pyramid, doing hand gestures, etc..)
- Ask them, **How do you feel about the team that you are on? Do you have a sense of peace, or are you worried you won’t win many games?**
- If time is left, have a game ready from the past weeks to play.

DAY TWO: The Great Sock Pull

MATERIALS: One sock or rag for each person (one team needs dark socks, and the other team needs light colored socks. If you don’t have enough socks or rags, you can purchase two large sheets of fabric and cut them into strips.)

OBJECT: To steal the socks from the opposing team members, and not get your socks stolen.

SETUP:

- Have the two teams go to opposite ends of the playing field or room. Give each player a sock. One team will have dark colored socks, and the other will have light colored socks.
- Have the players place their sock in a rear pocket or tuck it into their pants. Make sure that the majority of the sock is sticking out so that others can easily grab it.

Week 1 – God’s Peace Comes from Believing

TO PLAY:

- When the leader says go, the children try to take a sock from an opposing player.
- If a player has his or her sock pulled they must go and sit down on the side line.
- Players may not hold their sock to keep it from being pulled, nor may they hide it or cover it up with their shirt, nor tied to a belt loop. It should be visible and easily come out when pulled. Children may, however, dodge others dive on the floor, or roll out of the way.
- Play ends when all of the players of one team have their socks pulled and end up out of the game, or when time runs out.
- You can play the games several times.

DISCUSSION:

1. **Did you experience peace as you played this game?**
2. **Did feelings of anxiety cause you or anyone else to break the rules?**
3. **Did you feel frustrated and angry or calm and peaceful when your sock was pulled?**
4. **What would you say to someone who got angry when their sock was pulled?**

DAY THREE: **Basket Balloon Ball**

MATERIALS: Two goals (can be garbage cans, nerf hoops, or people sitting in chairs)

OBJECT: To be the team to score as many balloon baskets as possible.

SET UP:

- This game is best played indoors in a large room.
- Place the two goals at either end of the room.
- Have the two teams go to either end of the room to devise their strategy, as explained below.
- Have one or two balloons ready to play with, and a few extras blown up in case one breaks.

Week 1 – God’s Peace Comes from Believing

TO PLAY:

- The team has some of its members play defense to prevent the other team from scoring a basket, and some of its members at the other end to try to score points. There needs to be enough members in the middle, as well, to pass the balloon to the offense when the defense gets the rebound.
- The players have to stay on their knees at all times, and are not allowed to move around the court. They must stay in the position they have chosen. You may give them an opportunity to switch positions half way through the game.
- The game begins as a balloon is dropped in the center.
- The players attempt to catch, hit, or pass the balloon to their teammates.
- The offensive players try to pass it to someone directly at the goal so he can shoot it in, while the defensive players attempt to steal the balloon or rebound miss shots, and pass it to their offensive players.
- After a point is scored, the balloon gets dropped again in the middle.
- More than one balloon at a time may be used for more excitement, and especially when you have larger groups.
- The team with the most baskets wins.

DISCUSSION:

1. Was this a peaceful game? Why or why not?
2. What was the thing that caused you to lose the peaceful feelings the easiest?
3. Can you feel happy and peaceful even if your team lost or a person on your team didn’t play well?
4. What kinds of facial expressions or actions show if a person is peaceful or not?

DAY FOUR: Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun play equipment that you have.

OBJECT: To give the children free time to do what they want and to see how they respond under pressure with their peers.

SET UP:

- Today, let the students have fun playing whatever they want to play with.

Week 1 – God’s Peace Comes from Believing

TO PLAY:

- Feel free to play with them, but allow them to guide you and help you know how to carry out the rules that they have set.
- Give them the freedom to choose the games and enforce the rules as they think that they should.
- Don’t allow them to look to you to solve all their problems with rules and players obeying them. Try to let them make decisions and find out the consequences of them.

DISCUSSION:

- 1. Was the activity that you chose to participate in as peaceful as you thought it was going to be? Why or why not?**
- 2. If you were playing a game could someone else come in and take away your peace?**
- 3. Were you able to experience peace even if you were losing or if you had to wait for your turn?**

PEACE ALLOWS US TO SURVIVE A CRISIS: WEEK 2

WEEK 2 – BIBLE CLUB

- LESSON AIM:** To help the child understand that belief in God does not spare him from crisis, but it allows him to live through it.
- SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:13-18
- MEMORY VERSE:** “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philipians 4:6 & 7

Angels inform shepherds of the good news and inform Joseph of bad news

The story of the birth of Jesus is filled with incidents where God’s people are required to trust Him if they are to have peace. The first minor “crisis” that Mary and Joseph had to face was having the baby delivered away from home. Just finding a place to stay for the night must have been a hard situation in which they had to trust the Lord. I’m sure that anyone who has had to look for a hotel in a crowded city late at night can testify to this!

The second crisis that we read about is seen from the eyes of the shepherds. They are out tending their sheep when the bright light, the glory of the Lord, shone around them. If we were in the middle of a dark field and it suddenly became totally light, we would also experience a crisis. The Greek word for “terrified” literally means “they feared a great fear.”

The third crisis that we see in this story is that of the threatened life of the baby Jesus. Knowing that someone is interested in killing your child is enough to cause anyone to start to fear. Joseph and Mary couldn’t even take their time in leaving Bethlehem. They had to leave “during the night.” This accentuates the potential for danger in this situation.

What is amazing in all three incidents is the way that God intervenes. He finds Mary and Joseph a place to stay in the crowded city, He encourages the shepherds not to fear through the angel’s message, and He gives Joseph advice on how to avoid a major tragedy. God has an incredible way of showing His presence in our darkest trials so that we learn to trust Him and love Him more.

What is also interesting to note is that in all of these incidents God allowed the crises to occur for a particular purpose. He allowed Herod’s threat on the infant Christ to have Joseph move to Egypt so that Hosea 11:1 might be fulfilled. Also, He allowed Mary and Joseph to suffer through the trauma of traveling during the ninth month of pregnancy so that Micah 5:2 would be fulfilled. In all of these occasions, He also was interested in seeing if the individuals were putting their complete trust in Him. God was able to give them all peace in the midst of their crisis.

**Discipleship
Tip**

This week when you are with your child one-on-one encourage them to remember that when God allows us to go through a crisis that He will go through it with us, and that He has something that He wants to teach us. Remind your student that you love them and want to be there for them when they experience scary times.

Hook – Option #1

MATERIALS: Knowledge of where the circuit breakers are and at least one flashlight per team.

BEFORE BIBLE CLUB:

- Find out where the circuit breakers are for your building. Determine which switches go to each room.
- Determine which circuits you definitely do not want to turn out during Bible club, and which ones can be turned off. Put a piece of masking tape to label the ones you will want to flip off during Bible club.
- Inform the other non-S.A.Y. Yes![®] people in the building of what you are doing, and make sure it will not interrupt them.
- Place a flashlight in an out of the way place in each room where a group of children will be meeting.

DURING BIBLE CLUB:

- Gather the children together according to age groups. Small groups will work better than one large group for this activity.
- Begin to review with them what the word “Peace” means and what they learned last week.
- Some time during this five minute introduction and review, have one volunteer sneak out and flip the circuits off, so that all the lights go out.
- The staff member should act a little concerned, but not panic. Make sure to let the children know not to get up, but to stay seated.
- Go to a shelf or desk where there is a flashlight, “conveniently” hidden.
- Let a child or two check the light switch, and check on the other groups.
- The staff could continue the discussion but act a little concerned about the electricity, saying things like “**I sure hope the lights come back on for gym time,**” or some other activity.
- After about five minutes, have the volunteer sneak away once more and flip the circuit breaker back on. Appear surprised and go over debriefing questions.

DEBRIEF:

1. **How did you feel before the lights went out?**
2. **How did your feelings change when the lights did go out? Why?**
3. **(For those children who act like they weren’t scared) How do you think you would have felt if you were all alone?**
4. **Did having some adults around help you to not feel as scared?**
5. **Can you remember a time when you felt scared in the past?**

Hook – Option #2

MATERIALS: None.

- Have the children gathered together for Bible Club, and have one staff member reviewing from last week what the word “Peace” means.
- Have the director come in a little flustered with a concerned look on his face. The director can interrupt the staff member who is speaking, and say **“I think I have some bad news. The toys to the S.A.Y. Yes!® store are missing!”** The director can ask the staff if they have seen them.
- The staff member can explain that he has looked everywhere for them but can’t find them. The director can also ask the children if they have heard of anyone who has a lot of new toys.
- Then the director should end by saying, **“Well, I guess there won’t be any S.A.Y. Yes!® store this month.”**
- The director walks away sad, and the other staff will need to comfort the children who will be upset about the S.A.Y. Yes!® store. If possible, they can continue on with the discussion.
- After a few minutes, the director can come back and look excited. The director can say, **“Hey, I have good news. I talked to the Pastor and He said that He needed to move the S.A.Y. Yes!® toys to get at something. He put them in a safe place.”**
- After you calm the children back down from cheering, you can go over the debriefing questions.

DEBRIEF:

1. **How did you feel when you heard the director’s first announcement?**
2. **Were you afraid that you wouldn’t be able to get anything at the store?**
3. **How did others respond when they heard the bad news?**
4. **How would a person who had peace have responded to the news?**
5. **How did you feel when you heard the director’s second announcement?**
6. **Are you more grateful now for the S.A.Y. Yes!® store?**

Bible Story

MATERIALS: A white board, flip chart, or large sheet of poster board, and assorted markers, especially a black one.

This Bible Club story is to be a story board or “chalk talk.” It takes a little practice to get the lettering and drawing down, but one does not really have to be a great artist. This presentation is an excellent way to keep the children’s attention while the story is being told, plus it helps capsule the story into four brief scenes and phrases. The actual story board can be slightly altered if desired, and the story should be told from memory, rather than reading it from the script. If you want, you can have one person tell the story and another person sketch the story in as it is told, or you can have one person do both.

- Earlier in the day, before S.A.Y. Yes![®] begins, the story board person needs to set it up in the pre-story form as shown in illustration #1. (Open Air Campaigners uses this technique to share the gospel with adults and children. They have many books on training and message illustrations. For more information call 610-746-0508, or write Open Air Campaigners, P.O. Box D, Nazareth, PA 18064-0520.)
- The story board is filled in as the story is told. The pre-story form helps the presenter to remember what things need to be drawn and helps prevent them from mistakes. It is good at practicing the drawing on a sheet of paper before attempting it on the story board. Practice filling in the lines to make the letters as well. You can make the story all in one color, or if you are adventurous, you can use a few different colors. The simpler you make it, the less chance for problems and the easier it will be to present it.

Script

Today I have an exciting lesson to tell you. Part of it is encoded on the board behind me. Is there anyone here who thinks they can tell me what the story will be about, or who can read the top line for us? (Pause) No? Well, then listen very carefully and I will help you figure out what it says. (Fill in the letters “God gives us peace in crises and helps us,” but do not say it out loud. Let the children read it as you go.) **Today you get the privilege of hearing two stories that have to do with people from the Bible. These people had some pretty scary things happen to them, but they were able to trust God, and God gave them peace in the midst of the event, as well as the help they needed to make it through. The first story that we will talk about is...** (Fill in the letters for the “shepherds & angels.”) **That’s right, the shepherds and the angels. It all started out like any other night for the shepherds.** (While you tell the story of the shepherds, begin to fill in the tree, the moon, the shepherd, and the sheep) **They lived near the city of Bethlehem and their job was to take care of the sheep. They were very common people, some of the poorest in the country, but God loved them just as much as the other people. In fact, they were to be the first ones who got to hear the Good News about Jesus’ birth. Out in the fields the shepherds probably did not get to see many other people, besides their sheep and the other shepherds. You can imagine their surprise when all of a sudden, out of nowhere, there appeared an angel of the Lord! The glory of the Lord shone around them that looked like a bright light.** (Fill in the light coming in on the left side of the first box and the shepherd saying “help.”)

Week 2 – Peace Allows Us to Survive a Crisis

The Bible says that the shepherds were terrified. Imagine how you would feel if all of a sudden a bright angel appeared before you. You would probably be scared too. But the angel comforted them saying, “Do not be afraid.” (Fill “do not be afraid” in.) When the shepherds heard this they were no doubt reminded that God cared for them. Then they got to hear about the Good News. The angel told them that “today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” All of the Israelites had been waiting for hundreds of years for the Savior to come. They had read about Him in the Old Testament books. Certainly this was good news. Then the angel told them how they could find the baby. He was wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Does anyone know what a manger is? (Pause for response.) A manger is a feeding trough where barn yard animals eat from. After the angel told them this, there was a great group of angels that appeared with the other one and they all start praising God, and singing about how God has brought peace to all men. How do you think the angels felt when they saw all of this? What would you do if you were them? They got excited. Their fear and anxiety turned into joy and peace. God took what at first appeared to be a scary thing and turned it into the best thing that ever happened to the shepherds. They went to see Jesus. (Begin to fill in the second box. While continuing to explain how the shepherds must of felt.) They were so excited that the Bible says they spread the word to everyone concerning the things they had seen and heard.

There is a second story during the birth of Jesus that tells us about someone’s fears being changed into peace. This story is about Jesus’ father, Joseph and a dream that he had. (Fill in Joseph and his dream. Also draw in Joseph sleeping in his bed.) Joseph was pretty exhausted from all of the events that had happened those first few days in Bethlehem. He had traveled over 75 miles with his pregnant wife to Bethlehem so that he could register for the census that was being taken. (Explain what a census is if there is time.) He couldn’t find any nice places to stay, and so he had to settle in a stable where the barnyard animals live. Plus he probably had many visitors to see this new special baby that was just born. As he went to sleep, another angel appeared to Joseph in his dream and warned him of some trouble. (Begin filling in his dream.) The angel told him about King Herod, who was a very selfish man. He was afraid that Jesus would take his place as the new king and that people would follow Jesus instead of him, so he devised a plan to kill all the babies in the surrounding area that were one or two years old. Now have you ever had a bad dream where someone you loved was being chased or was killed? Frightening dreams are no joke. You can imagine how Joseph felt when he woke up. He did not waste any time. The angel told him exactly what he must do. God is so good. Not only did He give Joseph his peace, but He also gave him a plan of escape. He told him to go to Egypt. (Begin filling in the words Egypt, Mary, Joseph and the donkey.) While it was still dark out, he woke up Mary and they gathered all of their things together and they headed for Egypt. During the night Herod’s men were knocking on people’s doors and putting to death all of the babies that they found. (Fill in the house, the two men, and “how old is your baby?” Also fill in “Joseph, Mary, and Jesus escape.”) God was able to take two scary situations and give the shepherds and Joseph peace, and make things turn out good. Isn’t God good?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FACT

What scary situation did the shepherds face? Why was this scary? *(They saw the shining angel appearing out of nowhere. It was scary because they didn't know what he wanted, if they were in trouble, or who they were.)*

What scary situation did Joseph and Mary face? *(They found out that King Herod wanted to kill their new born baby.)*

How did the shepherds respond to the angel? *(They were able to have peace, they went to see Jesus, and they spread the good news.)*

How did Joseph respond in his crisis? *(Joseph was able to trust God and obey Him. He took his family to Egypt.)*

Which of these two stories do you think is more scary and why?

FAITH

Honestly, how do you think you would have responded if you were in the shepherds' or Joseph's shoes?

Can you remember a crisis you have had when you were scared? Were you able to trust God? What happened?

Why do you think the shepherds and Joseph were able to have peace? *(Because they heard from the angels.)* **Most of us don't get to see angels today, but we have God's Word. It tells us to trust in Him. How can God's Word give you peace when you are afraid?** *(We can trust in His promises and see how he took care of others who trusted in Him.)*

FULFILLMENT

What is one worry or care that you can give over to God right now? Do you believe that He can help you and give you peace?

Look up John 14:25-27 and read it. Why does God say, "Do not let your hearts be troubled?" *(Because he gave the disciples his peace.)*

Jesus also promised his followers something else that would help them to have peace once He went up to Heaven. What is that? *(His Holy Spirit.)* **How can the Holy Spirit help us to not be afraid, but to have peace?** *(He can supernaturally take away our fear.)* **Galatians 5:22 says that peace is a fruit of the Spirit. In other words, peace comes from the Holy Spirit. So when we have the Holy Spirit, we can have peace. Let's pray right now that God would let the Holy Spirit take control of us and give us His peace for the situation you mentioned earlier.**

WEEK 2 - SKIT

Skit #1

SCENE: Bobby and Reuben come running in, because someone was chasing them. They run to the front of the room and stop. They are panting like they are out of breath.

Bobby: Wow! That was close. Those two big dudes almost got us.

Reuben: You can say that again. When they stopped us and started bothering us, I thought we would never get away. Praise God that we did.

Bobby: Praise God? What do you mean? It was Him who allowed those big guys to stop us and take our candy money. Now we can't buy anything at the store. Besides, we almost got killed. I wonder why He didn't protect us.

Reuben: What do you mean? He DID protect us. He made it so we were able to get away without a scratch on our body. If it wasn't for God we would be riding in an ambulance right about now.

Bobby: If God was really protecting us, He wouldn't have allowed those dudes to take our money. I was looking forward to getting some chips and a Coke. I thought being a Christian meant that God would always watch our back for us.

Reuben: I think you misunderstood what Ms. _____ (staff member) has been teaching us at the S.A.Y. Yes!® Center. She never said that if we trusted God He would protect us from all problems, but that He would walk through the danger with us.

Bobby: Well, what about our money that got jacked?

Reuben: I think that if God intended for us to have a snack, He will also provide a way to pay for them.

Bobby: I don't know about all that. I don't know how you can be so calm at a time like this. I mean they stole your five dollars too.

Maria: (walking up to Bobby and Reuben) Where have you guys been? I've been looking for you. Mom and Dad said that since all three of us did such a good job raking leaves yesterday, that they wanted to give each of us five dollars. (handing them the money) Here is yours and yours.

Bobby: (In utter amazement) I can't believe it. Bobby you were right. I guess God did have our back all along. He never left us, but was testing us to see if we would trust Him. He is an awesome God!

Reuben: See, I told you.

Maria: What are you all talking about?

Reuben: It's a long story. Come with us to the store, and we'll fill you in. (they walk off together.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1. What was Bobby all upset about? What did he think about God?** *(He was upset that his money was stolen and that he was being chased. He didn't think God did a good job of protecting him. He thought God should deliver him from all problems.)*
- 2. Why was Reuben so calm? What did he think about God?** *(He was thankful that he was able to get away and not end up seriously hurt. He believes God will allow us to go through trials, but that He will help us in the midst of them.)*
- 3. What do you think? If God really loves us should He allow us to go through problems? Why or why not?**

Skit #2

SCENE: Reuben and Maria come by Bobby's to pick him up for church. He is sitting on the porch step looking sad.

Maria: Hey Bobby, are you ready to go to church?

Bobby: Yeah, I guess so. (Bobby gets up and they start walking slowly.)

Reuben: What's wrong, Bobby? You don't look so good. Is everything alright?

Bobby: Not exactly. Its the same old problem - my mom, she was drinking again last night. You know how she gets when she is drinking. Then this morning all she could do was yell at me. Sometimes I hate living.

Reuben: You're not getting any funny thoughts about doing anything crazy are you?

Bobby: Oh no. You don't have to worry about that. A year or so ago I used to think about running away or killing myself, but now that Jesus is in my life I have a lot more peace. Even though things aren't too good around the house, I know that Jesus loves me, and somehow He'll make things work out.

Maria: That's a pretty good attitude. I don't know what I would do if I were in your situation. I mean, if my parents split and my mom started drinking, I think I would go crazy.

Bobby: I used to feel that way. But knowing that God is here with me makes me feel a little bit better. Let me quote this verse that Mr. _____ (staff member) at S.A.Y. Yes!® told me to memorize. It is found in Psalm 27. It says, "Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me." I have come to realize God's love in new ways.

Reuben: That's great Bobby.

Bobby: I keep praying that things will change, but until God decides to change them, I can be sure that God will take care of me and love me, even if my parents don't always do the best job.

Week 2 – Peace Allows Us to Survive a Crisis

- Maria:** Well, that's a good verse for all people to remember, because no parent is perfect all the time. Even my parents make mistakes sometimes and hurt my feelings.
- Reuben:** And you know Bobby, you can always count on us to help you out if you ever need it. We'll keep praying with you for your mom and dad.
- Bobby:** Thanks you guys. I feel a little better just talking about it. Let's hurry up though. I don't want to be late for church. The choir is singing a new song today! (They hurry off.)

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

- 1. What was Bobby so sad? What is his on-going problem?** (His parents are divorced. His mom is an alcoholic and was drinking last night. Plus she was angry this morning.)
- 2. How did he handle this problem? How is this different than how he used to feel? What has changed?** (He used to feel totally depressed and think about running away or about suicide. Now he can trust Jesus to cheer him up. Becoming a Christian has made a big difference. Plus a staff member gave him an encouraging verse.)
- 3. How would you feel if you were in Bobby's place? What would you do? What can Maria and Reuben do to encourage their friend?**

WEEK 2 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6,7

EXPLANATION OF THE VERSE

These verses are great promises to us that God will give us His incredible peace if we bring our problems to Him. He does not promise us that He will work things out the way we want, but He will give us peace. We are commanded not to be anxious, so when we are constantly walking around worrying about things, we are in sin. This verse also mentions that spending time thanking God for what He will do and what He has already done helps to bring us peace.

Memory Verse Basket Ball Shoot

MATERIALS: 1-4 balls (Nerf balls work great), bucket or garbage can, copy of the verse written out for each child

OBJECT: To be the team with the most points when time is up.

- Have the children study the verse (if they don't know it yet) as they wait for their turn.
- Divide the group into two teams. Make sure the ages are mixed and that the those who usually memorize verses the easiest are split evenly onto the teams.
- One player from team one is called up and asked to recite the verse. If he is able to recite it perfectly with the reference, he gets four shoots at the bucket/basket.
- Have a set line where the players shoot from that is far enough away from the bucket/basket so that it is neither too easy, nor too difficult to make a shot.
- For each shot the child makes their team earns a point.
- When a child misses a word or gets stuck, the leader tells the child the next word. Every time a word is given, one of the shots is taken away. For instance, if the child asks for the next word two times and messes up on the reference, they only get to shoot the ball one time.
- After the player from team one shoots, then a player from team two comes up and tries to say the verse.
- At the end of the allotted time, the team with the most points is the winning team.
- This game works even better if the children have verses from other curriculum units that they have memorized. It helps to review their verses. To do this have another bucket with pieces of paper in it. On each piece of paper have a reference to one of the verses the children have learned. When a player comes up, they must first reach in the bucket to choose a piece of paper to see which verse they will be trying to quote. The more verses they have learned, the more challenging and exciting the game becomes!

WEEK 2 - PRACTICAL LIVING



Home Emergency Preparedness

MATERIALS: Photocopied articles, safety pamphlets, and or books on the following topics: earthquakes, fires, tornadoes, floods, blizzards, heart attacks, strokes, riots, home burglaries, paper, pencils and small treats for all of the students.

This practical lesson involves group learning, cooperation, and participation, to learn how to cope with different types of crises.

- Before S.A.Y. Yes!®, go to the public library, or look through your center’s resources to find articles, books, encyclopedia articles, pamphlets, or any other information that you can copy about different crises, including earthquakes, floods, fires, tornadoes, blizzards, heart attacks, strokes, riots, home burglaries, etc. Make copies, or check out the materials and bring them to the center.
- Make sure that you high light the particulars on what to do when the crises arise. The suggestions should be fairly easy to find for the children.
- During Practical Living, tell the children, **“One way that we can be able to experience God’s peace when facing a crisis, is to be ready to know what to do in that specific crisis. Today we are going learn about different crises that we might one day have to face.”**
- The children will be split up into groups. There should be one group for each of the crises that you have information on. You can let the children choose the groups and topics they want to work on, or you can assign them to specific groups and to specific topics. Make sure that you split up the different age groups so that the younger ones will have older students to help them.
- Let the children know that they will be able to earn a treat if they are able to work well in their group, and if their group does a good job at finding out information about their crisis and presents it well to the class.
- They will have about 15 minutes to read the material, write down 3 - 5 steps that they can share with the class about their crises intervention, and work on acting it out in a short skit or demonstration. Each group will need a piece of paper and a pencil to write down their steps.
- After they have prepared, seat everyone down in a large area, and let each group come up one at a time and present their findings and demonstration and/or skit. If the group has worked well, and their presentation was helpful, reward them with a treat.
- Make sure you have time for all of the groups to share.
- If there is time at the end, review each one, asking children what they would do in each situation. Make sure you ask children about topics that they did not report on themselves.

WEEK 2 - READ-ALOUD

“The Ugly Duckling”

By Hans Christian Andersen

Can be found in different fairy tale collections, including “Eighty Fairy Tales” page 107.

SUMMARY: This is a fairy tale about an ugly duckling who eventually turns into a swan. The ugly duckling is hatched by a mother duck. Once the duckling is born, he is immediately made fun of by his siblings and other ducks. They tease him, peck at his neck, call him names. All of the other barnyard animals pick on him too. He leaves home and finds others who mistreat him including some wild-ducks, an old lady with her cat and hen. The ugly duckling has to endure a long hard winter, and is feeling sorry for itself. The duckling sees some swans and he marvels at them. After winter is over he sees the swans again. He flies over to them, thinking that they will kill him, but believes this would be a better death than being killed by other animals. As he is near them, he looks down in the water, sees his reflection in the water and realizes he is a swan. All of a sudden his perception of himself and life in general are changed.

Teaching Tip: This story can help the children see that many people in crises choose not to experience peace because they focus on the wrong things. This ugly duckling believed what everyone else told him, and so he did not have peace. We can bring out the importance of real peace not being circumstantial, but dependent upon God’s unchanging character.

PRE READING QUESTIONS

1. **What do you know about ducks? Are there different kinds? How are they born? What do they do during the winter months?** *(There are different types of ducks. They are born in eggs, the mother duck sits on them to keep them warm until they hatch. They fly to warmer climates in the winter.)*
2. **Do animals have feelings? Can animals in fairy tales have feelings or talk?** *(No. Animals can feel physical pain, but do not have real emotions. In fairy tales animals can do whatever the author wants them to, including talk and have emotions.)*
3. **Do you know someone who is picked on by others all the time? How do you think this person feels? Is it right to pick on them?**

LISTENING QUESTIONS

1. **As I read the story, be listening for the answers to these questions and we will answer them at the end of the story.**
2. **What were some things that were different about the ugly duckling?** *(His egg took longer to hatch. He was bigger than the others. He was considered ugly when he was born.)*

Week 2 – Peace Allows Us to Survive a Crisis

3. **What were some of the bad things that happened to the ugly duckling?** *(Other ducks made fun of him, pecked him in his neck, some other ducks were shot by him so he became afraid, an old lady and her hen and cat made fun of him, he almost froze to death.)*
4. **What was different about the ugly duckling when the spring time came. How did his feelings about himself change?** *(He turned into a beautiful swan. He liked himself more, he felt special, and happy.)*

POST READING QUESTIONS

First answer the listening questions and then use these for your discussion.

1. **How do you think the ugly duckling felt when people were picking on him and calling him names? How does this relate to the people that you talked about before we read the story?** *(He felt terrible, unloved, and like he wanted to die.)*
2. **Should how a person looks or what others say about him effect their peace? Can a person who is considered ugly or picked on experience peace? How so?** *(Yes. If they concentrate on the Lord instead of what other people say they can. This is very difficult.)*
3. **Do you think the swan had real peace in the end of the story? Would his peace go away if he turned back into an ugly duckling?** *(No it is not real peace, because it depended on how he looked and what others thought of him, not on his belief and trust in God. If he changed back into an ugly duckling, he would lose his peace.)*
4. **What can we do when people make fun of us, talk about our mother, or when life becomes hard, like the winter was for the ugly duckling? How can we experience peace in those times?** *(Remember that God loves us, that He loves us know matter what others think. If we focus on God and talk to Him about what we are feeling, He can help us have His peace.)*

WEEK 2 - CRAFTS

✂ Puzzles of Peace

MATERIALS: Pre-made blank puzzles, (or thick card stock and scissors), and markers.

- S&S crafts makes set ups for all kinds of crafts for groups of children. If you want a ready-made easy craft, call them and order blank puzzles (already cut). Their phone number is 1-800-243-9232, and ask for number SC8-RE7. They come in packs of 24, and the cost ends up around 52 cents per person. (P.S. if you plan to do next weeks crafts, look ahead and purchase that material as well.) Order one for each child. Each puzzle is 5.5” x 8,” and you can order it with 12 pieces or 28 pieces.
- During craft time, give out the puzzle (it comes assembled) and the markers.
- Tell the students, “The best way to experience God’s peace when we are going through rough times is to meditate on the promises of God. This month we are working extra hard at learning our memory verse and other verses about peace, so that we can remember when things go wrong that God can give us His peace.”
- Have the students write their memory verse for the month on the puzzle in a creative or decorative way. If you want, you can choose another verse that teaches us about God’s peace instead, such as 1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.” They could also draw a picture of some situation where they would need God’s peace, or something about Jesus that will help them experience His peace.
- After they are finished drawing their design, they can switch puzzles with a friend, scramble the pieces, and try to complete their friend’s puzzle, while their friend tries to complete their puzzle.

If you choose not to order the already made puzzles.....

- Give each child a piece of thick card stock. If you don’t feel it is thick enough, they can glue several sheets of card stock together, or glue a piece of card stock to a piece of thin cardboard.
- Have the children draw their verse or design on the front as explained above.
- On the back, have the children draw some lines to divide the picture into pieces. Make sure they don’t draw too many lines, or too few lines. The lines should separate the piece into 12-30 equal portions, and should be squiggly and different enough so that each piece is distinct.
- Have them cut their pieces out according to the lines they drew on the back of the verse or design. They can then let their friends attempt to put the puzzle together, as stated above.

WEEK 2 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Blob Tag

MATERIALS: None.

OBJECT: To tag all of the players, making them part of the Blob.

SET UP:

- Spread the children out in the playing field
- Chose one player to be it (the Blob).

TO PLAY:

- The game starts as an ordinary game of tag except that as players are tagged, they join hands with “the Blob,” and thus become part of the Blob themselves.
- Only the outside hands of the Blob line can be used for tagging.
- The Blob can use its body (chain of people), as it gets longer, to entrap others they are trying to tag.
- The last person tagged becomes the new Blob.

Variation:

- If you want to use the teams that you divided up last week and give competition points, you can have one person from each team be it (the Blob). They both try to capture people.
- When all of the people have become part of the Blobs, you can count each line and see which has more people. The Blob with the most people is the winner.

DISCUSSION:

1. Did you feel any anxiety as you were running away from the Blob?
2. What did you do when you felt anxious?
3. Did your fear of being tagged cause you to do any weird things or to break the rules?
4. Was it difficult to hold hands and be part of the Blob when the leader was pulling you?
5. Did you experience any anxiety then? What did you do about it?

DAY TWO: Follow The Leader

MATERIALS: None.

OBJECT: If you are the “guesser” to guess who the leader is. If you are a participant, to fool the “guesser”.

SET UP:

- Have all of the children sit on the floor in a circle.
- Choose one person to be the “guesser” and have that person go out of the room.
- Choose one person to be the “leader” who will make up different motions, and change them periodically. For instance, he may clap for ten seconds, then pat the floor for fifteen seconds, scratch his chin for five seconds, etc.

TO PLAY:

- Once the “guesser” is out of the room, the “leader” begins to do his different motions.
- The others in the circle do exactly as the leader does.
- Only a few of the participants should look at the leader, everyone else should look at other people.
- When they participants see that the leader has changed motions, they need to change as well. Participants are not allowed to fool the “guesser” by making up their own motions.
- There should be no talking during the game.
- Once the leader has started, the guesser is called back into the room and stands in the middle of the circle. He must try to determine who the leader is.
- He gets three guesses to determine who the leader is. If he is taking too much time, impose on him a time limit.
- After he makes a guess, inform him whether he is right or not.
- Once the leader is guessed, or the guesser misses his three guesses, you can choose a new guesser and a new leader.

DISCUSSION:

- 1. Which was more stressful being the guesser, being the leader and thinking up new motions, or being a participant and waiting to be called next?**
- 2. If you were feeling anxious, how could you have experienced more peace?**

DAY THREE: Continuous Soccer

MATERIALS: A fairly large playing field, two goals (cones to mark the goals work fine), and a soccer ball.

OBJECT: To be the team that scores the most goals.

SET UP:

- Mark off the field so that all of the players know the boundaries. Assign one team to stand on one sideline, and the other team to stand on the other sideline.
- Each team needs to split its team in half. The younger players are number 1's and the older players are number 2's. The team should be split so that there are an equal number of 1's and 2's.
- One person on each team can be designated as the full time goalie, and they can take their position to defend their goal.

TO PLAY:

- The regular rules of soccer apply.
- The 1's are on the field at first.
- When the ball is put in play they try to kick the soccer ball into the opposing team's goal, while defending their goal.
- The 2's are to cheer their team on.
- After a few minutes of play, the referee blows the whistle or yells "SWITCH." At this point, the 1's immediately run to the sideline, while the 2's take over. This is done without the game stopping.
- Now the 2's try to score the goal, while the 1's cheer their teammates on.
- Every few minutes the referee blows the whistle or yells "SWITCH." He can yell "SWITCH" as often as he likes.
- When a goal is scored, play stops and the other number takes the field.
- When "SWITCH" is yelled, players must immediately come off the field. If they kick the ball before going to the sideline, a penalty is awarded, and it becomes the other team's ball.
- The winning team is the one with the most goals when it is time to quit.

DISCUSSION:

- 1. How anxious did you get when you saw that the other team was about to score a goal?**
- 2. Was it hard to be peaceful as you were waiting for your shift to be able to go on the field?**
- 3. Did your anxiety or pressure to win cause you to do anything unfair?**
- 4. What happened to your peace when you were caught cheating?**

DAY FOUR: Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun play equipment that you have.

OBJECT: To let the child try to apply the new concepts of peace to everyday life.

SET UP:

- Let the children use any of the play equipment that they want.
- Let them set up their own games and make up their own rules if they want and if they can get anyone else to play with them.

TO PLAY:

- Feel free to play with them, but do not take control of organizing the game.
- Let them do this and follow their rules.
- Ask the students to try to participate with their friends in the best way possible.
- Remind them that the rules of the center should still be abided by during this time.

DISCUSSION:

1. **Do you think this unit on peace has helped you be able to experience peace even when problems and trials come up during the activities you play?**
2. **Do you do the same thing at school? Why or why not?**
3. **What are some things you can do to remind yourself to remain peaceful during trials?**

GOD'S PEACE MEANS TRUSTING IN GOD MOMENT BY MOMENT: WEEK 3

WEEK 3 – BIBLE CLUB

LESSON AIM: To help the child understand that daily he must place his trust in God in order to maintain peace.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:41-52

MEMORY VERSE: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6&7

The Boy Jesus at The Temple

Very little of Jesus' childhood is mentioned in Scripture except for this story. This passage of Scripture tells us that even at a young age Jesus had a deep faith in God the Father and trusted Him moment by moment. Although he was an average boy in that he had to grow physically and mentally (vs. 40), he had a different mind set than an average boy. His mind was on the Father, and conversing with others about God.

Mary and Joseph had traveled on from the Feast of the Passover, and soon realized that Jesus was not with them. After three days they found him. One day traveling away from Jerusalem, a second traveling back, and a third looking and finally finding him. Mary communicates that she feels hurt by Jesus, and it is apparent that she was anxious (vs. 48).

We see that Jesus does not have the same anxiety that his mother had. Most twelve year old boys who had been left behind by their parents would be extremely anxious, and would have reported the event to someone who could help them find their parents again. Jesus realizes that he is completely in God's hands, and that his Father will protect him. We can assume that Jesus found more peace with being in the Father's presence than being with his parents.

He also did not become upset when his parents did not understand what he was saying. At twelve years old he understood his unique relationship to God. In spite of his parents misunderstanding, he was obedient to them.

Jesus demonstrates his trust in God to lead him, protect him, and use him, no matter what the circumstance was. This trait can be seen through out his earthly life. He often had no place to rest his head, he was very busy, and people often misunderstood him, yet he always trusted in God. Remember, peace is not depend upon the circumstance, but on our relationship with God, and trusting in Him moment by moment.

Discipleship
Tip

As you meet with each child one-on-one this week, ask them to share with you something that worries them. Remind them that God is with them wherever they go, and that He cares for them. Pray with them about this troubling circumstance.

Week 3 – God’s Peace Means Trusting in God Moment By Moment

Hook

MATERIALS: None

- At the beginning of BIBLE CLUB today have your children sit together in pairs with one of their friends. Children who have a tendency to act a little out of control should be paired with an adult volunteer. Also, children should be paired with others who are about the same size and weight as they are.
- Explain that the main reason we can have peace in the midst of crises in our lives is because we know that Jesus is totally dependable and can be trusted to take care of us.
- Have one pair come up, and explain that we will be doing trust falls today. One partner stands with his back to the other person. He crosses his hands over his body so that his left hand touches his right shoulder, and his right hand touches his left shoulder. He needs to look straight ahead the whole time, and keep his legs together and his knees locked the whole time.
- The partner who is standing behind him says “Ready to catch you” when they are in the ready stance. The ready stance is with their hands out, and one foot behind them to brace themselves. This partner should be standing about 1 - 1 1/2 feet behind the other person. They need to take this completely seriously. If not remove them and have another responsible child take their place.
- The person in front slowly begins to fall backwards and the second partner catches him after he has fallen about 1 - 1 1/2 feet backwards. (Make sure the 2nd partner does not try to appear strong and let them fall more than two feet.)
- The object is for the falling person to completely trust his partner to catch him. If he turns his head, bends his knees, takes his hands off his shoulders, or moves his legs, he did not fully trust his partner.
- After you have done a few demonstrations from the front, allow them to try it with their partner. As they do, go around the room and make sure children are doing it safely. See which ones are actually able to trust their partners.
- After both partners have had time to try falling into the others arms, go over debriefing questions.

DEBRIEF

1. How did you feel the first time you tried to fall back into your partners arms?
2. How did it feel when your partner caught you?
3. Did anyone fully trust their partner?
4. Why did you or didn’t you trust your partner?
5. Are there some people that you would trust more than others to be your partner? Why or why not?
6. If Jesus was behind you and he said he would catch you, do you think you could trust him?
7. What things would it be hard for you to trust Jesus to do for you?

Week 3 – God’s Peace Means Trusting in God Moment By Moment

Remind the students that true peace only comes when you can fully trust Jesus to take care of you. If a person does not believe in Jesus he cannot have peace when problems arise. We need to be certain that Jesus has our back.

Bible Story

Materials: Flannel graph lesson from the Life of Christ book Volume 1. You can order this from Child Evangelism Fellowship located in Warrenton, MO 63383, or you can probably find it at a Christian Bookstore near you.

Teaching Tip: We almost never use flannel graph lessons in S.A.Y. Yes!®, but they are good visual aids to use to tell Bible stories. The life of Christ book Volume 1 is a good book to have in your library because it has 6 reusable lessons including Jesus’ birth, the shepherds’ story, the magi’ story, Jesus’ baptism, the choosing of the disciples, and this week’s lesson - Jesus as a boy being left at the temple.

The figures can be used as is, or you can get multi-cultural markers from Crayola and choose a light tan color to make the figures more culturally sensitive and more accurate to middle-eastern people. Another great thing about the flannel graph lesson book is that there is a very good script. The leader can read through it a few times highlighting the important phrases and teach the story from memory.

OPTION #2:

If you choose not to use the flannel graph lesson, a very simple way to teach the lesson and make it enjoyable would be to have one leader who can enthusiastically read the lesson from the Bible, and choose several children to spontaneously, with the help of the leader, act out the story from the Bible. If time permits, you can do it a second time with different children.

Either way you decide to teach the lesson, you will want to make sure that you emphasize how most children would feel traumatized at being forgotten by their parents in a big city. Remind them that Jesus was able to have peace because his continual trust was in God. He knew that His Heavenly Father never accidentally forgot about him, and that ultimately, God is the one who takes care of us.

Week 3 – God’s Peace Means Trusting in God Moment By Moment

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FACT

What happened to Jesus when he was only twelve years old? *(After the Passover Feast, he was accidentally left behind in the city of Jerusalem.)*

What did Jesus’ parents do when they realized that Jesus was missing? *(They went to look for him among his relatives, and eventually went back to Jerusalem.)*

Where was Jesus and what was Jesus doing while his parents were looking for him? *(Jesus was in the temple courts talking with the teachers.)*

Why were all the leaders amazed at Jesus? *(Because Jesus knew a great deal about God and was interested in learning more, and he wasn’t too afraid that his parents left him.)*

FAITH

How do you think a normal twelve year old boy would act if he was left alone in a city without anyone he knew? *(He would act afraid, probably cry, talk to the police to help him.)*

How do you think you would feel if you were accidentally forgotten in a far away city? What would you do? Who would you turn to?

Why do you think that Jesus went to the temple? Why didn’t Jesus act more afraid? *(Jesus probably thought that the people at the temple would care the most and would be able to help him. He really couldn’t do anything but wait for them to come back. Jesus didn’t act more afraid because he trusted in his Heavenly Father to take care of the situation.)*

FULFILLMENT

Look up Psalm 27:10. How could this verse have helped Jesus? How can it help you when you are alone? *(Even though our parents some time fail us or forget about us, God will never forget about us and will take care of us.)*

What is a scary situation that you have been through or someone you love has been through? If you had to go through that situation again would you act differently? How so?

Knowing that God is all powerful, that He loves us, and that He protects us helped Jesus to trust that God would work everything out. Do you know that God is all powerful, that He loves you, and that He will protect you? Which of these three do you have the hardest time believing and why?

Let’s pray and thank God for loving us, for being all powerful, and for taking good care of us. Ask Him to give us peace when bad things happen.

WEEK 3 - SKITS

Skit #1

SCENE: Bobby and Reuben are walking home after S.A.Y. Yes!®

Reuben: Hey Bobby, what did you think of that Bible lesson that we learned today at S.A.Y. Yes!®? Wasn't it cool?

Bobby: Yeah, it was pretty cool. I sometimes wish that I could be one of those godly people in the Bible and be able to see God do great miracles and take care of all my problems for me. I guess there just aren't many people like that now-a-days.

Reuben: I would love to meet some of those Bible people and ask them how they did it. What it was like meeting God and seeing miracles and stuff. I would love to meet Jesus' disciples and ask them what Jesus was like.

Bobby: You know, they had it made. Whenever they had a problem, they could just go running to Jesus, and He could fix it. If only Jesus were here he could take care of my problems, just like He did the disciples problems. I would get Him to help me with my homework, have him take care of that dude who keeps messing with me at school. He could make it so that my parents would get back together again, and make my mom stop drinking....Man those disciples were so lucky to have Jesus right there.

Reuben: Hey, wait a minute. We are just as lucky as the disciples. We might not be able to see Jesus, like they did, but He is here with us right now, just as he was with them then. He does want us to tell Him all about our problems, because He cares for us.

Bobby: Yeah, but its not the same.

Reuben: You might not see Him, but He has given us His Holy Spirit, who lives inside of us. He can comfort us, and give us wisdom to make the right choices to solve our problems. His help is just a prayer away.

Bobby: You're right, and all, but I still say they had it better.

Reuben: Well, if they did, why did they get all worried when they were in the boat when the storm came up. Jesus was with them, and they still acted all crazy and worried. Do you remember what Jesus said, after they woke Him up and He calmed the storm? He asked his disciples, "Where is your faith?" So, even if Jesus was here so you could seem Him, you wouldn't be any different.

Bobby: I guess you're right. We have to trust God is in control and will take care of us moment by moment, step by step.

Reuben: Yep! That's what real faith is all about. Every little thing that comes up, God wants us to take it to Him and trust in Him to take care of us and help us with our problems. Then we can have that supernatural peace like the other great men of the Bible.

Week 3 – God’s Peace Means Trusting in God Moment By Moment

Bobby: Well, here’s my house. I can’t wait for dinner. I’m starving. See you tomorrow.

Reuben: Yeah, see you tomorrow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What did Bobby wish could happen?** *(He wished that he could see Jesus physically like His disciples were able to do.)*
2. **Would being able to have Jesus physically around us so we could see Him like the disciples make our lives any easier? Explain your answer.** *(No, we would still have to trust Him moment by moment.)*
3. **What has Jesus given us to help us with our problems and to comfort us when we’re afraid?** *(The Holy Spirit.)*
4. **What did Reuben say Jesus wanted us to do?** *(Trust Him with all our problems and pray to Him.)*

Skit #2

SCENE: LaTasha and Maria are sitting in school eating their lunch. They are eating, and LaTasha is taking tiny bites of her sandwich and eating slowly.

Maria: I’m sure glad it is lunch time.

LaTasha: Me too. I’m really hungry.

Maria: If you are so hungry why are you eating so slow?

LaTasha: Well, its just that I don’t want lunch to end. You know we have that math test after lunch, and I am totally nervous.

Maria: What are you so nervous about? You’re one of the smartest girls in the class. Besides, you studied for it yesterday, didn’t you?

LaTasha: Yeah, I studied, but I always get nervous before big tests.

Maria: I don’t see why you’re so nervous. Just ask the Lord to help you, and He will give you His peace, just like we’ve been learning at S.A.Y. Yes!®

LaTasha: Come on, you know its not that easy. Besides, I don’t get that “peace” stuff anyway. I mean I prayed this morning, but I have had nothing but worries all day. First I had to give a speech during English in front of the whole class. I thought I was going to die. Then I had to hurry up and finish my science project, so I could turn it in on time, and now I’ve got this math test. And then to top it all off, I have to walk home past that mean old lady’s house with that big dog that sometimes gets lose. I have nothing but worries all day.

Week 3 – God’s Peace Means Trusting in God Moment By Moment

- Maria:** Gee, that does sound pretty rough.
- LaTasha:** So what is that “peace” stuff all about any way. I prayed and ask God for help all day, but I’m still so nervous. I just don’t think it really works. Maybe for some people, I just wish I had an easier day.
- Maria:** You know LaTasha, prayer isn’t like saying some magic words. It doesn’t instantly take your problems away. And just because you gave your problems over to God in the morning, doesn’t mean that you don’t need to talk to Him during the day.
- LaTasha:** What do you mean? Do you expect me to get down on my knees and pray right here during lunch?
- Maria:** Well for starters, you don’t have to get on your knees for God to hear you. In fact, you don’t even have to close your eyes, nor say your prayer out loud. But, you can talk to Him silently in your heart, and let Him know that you need His help and that you will trust Him. Why don’t you try praying silently now about your math test?
- LaTasha:** Okay. (Pause for a few seconds, then she says “Amen” softly.) Hey, you know what? Prayer does work. I feel a little better already.
- Maria:** Trusting God is a moment by moment thing. Whenever you start to feel a little nervous, you can talk to God. Reviewing your notes doesn’t hurt either. Come on get your math book. I’ll quiz you while we eat.
- LaTasha:** Okay.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What were some of the things that LaTasha worried about?** (*Her speech, her science project, her math test, and the mean lady with the dog.*)
2. **LaTasha said she prayed in the morning, but that she wasn’t experiencing God’s peace. What was wrong?** (*She needs to trust in God all day, not just pray a prayer in the morning. She could talk to the Lord during the day as well.*)
3. **What kinds of advice did Maria give her. Do you have anything to add to what she said? How do you handle a day that is full of worries?**

WEEK 3 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6,7

EXPLANATION OF THE VERSE

These verses are great promises to us that God will give us His incredible peace if we bring our problems to Him. He does not promise us that He will work things out the way we want, but He will give us peace. We are commanded not to be anxious, so when we are constantly walking around worrying about things, we are in sin. This verse also mentions that spending time thanking God for what He will do and what He has already done helps to bring us peace.

Three Strikes Your Out

MATERIALS: Two sets of each word of the memory verse written on separate 3x5 cards, 6 3x5 cards with a big red “x” on them, two paper bags, and large piece of butcher paper or a board to write blank spaces on.

- Have each word of the memory verse written on separate 3x5 cards.
- Make two sets.
- Also make 6 3x5 cards with a big red “x” on them.
- Put each set of the verses in a paper bag or any container that the children can’t see into and put three X’s in each bag. These are the strikes.
- On half of the board, or a poster board, draw blank spaces for each word of the memory verse.
- On the other half of the board, or on another poster board, draw another set of blank spaces for the words of the verse, so that you have two sets of blank spaces.
- Divide the students into two teams.
- Each team is trying to complete their verse by drawing the words and placing them in the right places.
- If they draw a strike, they lose their turn.
- As the words are drawn, they are placed on the blank space where the word is to go or is written in. (If you write the word in, don’t put it back into the bag.)
- If the team draws all three strikes before all the words are given, they can have a chance to say the memory verse right then. They must turn their back to the board and try to say it.
- If they can’t, the other team can try to say it.
- The winning team is the one who can say the verse accurately.

WEEK 3 - PRACTICAL LIVING

Safety When Alone & Home Alone

MATERIALS: The strips of paper on the following page, cut apart, blank slips of paper, and a sticker for every child (mailing labels work great).

- This practical living will give the older children opportunities to be the leaders and teachers of the younger students. Earlier in the S.A.Y. Yes!® day, gather the older, mature students together and ask them to be leaders during family time. Break them off into six groups. It would be good to have at least twelve older students help you, so that each group would have at least two leaders.
- Give each group one of the slips of paper on the following page. Ask them to be the presenter for that specific topic. They can read over the situation and solution. Have them come up with a skit or short presentation of what the younger children should do in that situation.
- During Practical Living time, tell the younger children that they will see six presentations of potentially dangerous situations that they may one day have to deal with. Tell them that at the end of the six presentations, they will get to vote to choose the team whose skit was the best. Tell them that they need to watch carefully so they can vote wisely.
- Have one group come up to the front at a time to present their skit. After they are finished, ask the children to tell you what situation that group was presenting and what they said to do if they were in that position. You can add appropriate comments about the different dangers, clarify unclear presentations, and answer any questions.
- When the groups who do situation number 3 and 4 come up and perform their skit, show the children the stickers that they will make with important telephone numbers.
- Once all of the skits are performed, pass out little slips of paper and have the students write the number of the group that they think did the best job of teaching and acting. You can give awards to the winners if you want.
- After the voting is done, give out the stickers, and have the children get them ready. They will write in the information below. In most cases, the friends, family members, and their phone numbers will need to be provided by the parents. Have them take the stickers home, have the parents help fill in the information, and stick them on the side of the phone, under the base of the phone, or in some other safe place where they will remember.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Family member _____ () _____ --- _____

Friend _____ () _____ --- _____

Friend _____ () _____ --- _____

S.A.Y. Yes!® Staff _____ () _____ --- _____

Emergencies **9 - 1 - 1**

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Family member _____ () _____ --- _____

Friend _____ () _____ --- _____

Friend _____ () _____ --- _____

S.A.Y. Yes!® Staff _____ () _____ --- _____

Emergencies **9 - 1 - 1**

Potential Dangerous Situations

Cut these out to give to presenters.

Situation #1 You are home alone and the telephone rings. It is a stranger wanting to talk to your parents. They are asking all kinds of personal information, and wanting to know if your parents are home. What do you say? How much should you tell them?

Answer: 1. First, find out if your parent wants you to answer the phone when they are not there. 2. Never tell the person that your parent isn’t home, say “They are unavailable to talk at the moment.” 3. Take a message with name and phone number and time. 4. Do not tell them other information like your address, where your parents went, or about how old you are.

Situation #2 You are home alone and the door bell rings. It is a stranger wanting to talk to your parents. They are wanting you to open the door so they can come in and talk with you, or wait for your parents. What do you do?

Answer: 1. Never open the door if you don’t know the person. Tell them that your parent is currently unavailable to see visitors,” and ask them to come back later. 2. If you do know them be careful of opening the door to them, and don’t let them in unless they are very good friends of the family. 3. Do not give out any information. 4. Take messages.

Situation #3 You are home alone and there is someone prowling around your house, looking in the windows.

Answer: 1. Make sure all the windows and doors are closed and locked. 2. Call the phone numbers of the selected friends and family members on the sticker by the phone. 3. If they aren’t home or if the person outside starts to come in, call 9-1-1.

Week 3 – God’s Peace Means Trusting in God Moment By Moment

Situation #4 You are home alone and something goes wrong, like the electricity goes out, your parent is gone longer than they said they would, or anything that causes you to be scared.

Answer: 1. Don’t panic. Remember, Jesus is with you. 2. Call the phone numbers of selected friends and family members listed on the sticker by the phone. 3. Pray and Jesus for help.

Situation #5 You are walking alone, down the street. A car pulls up next to you asking your name, if you need a ride home, if you want some candy, etc. They keep trying to get you to come over to the car.

Answer: 1. Keep your distance from the stranger. 2. NEVER take candy, take a ride, go by their car, even if they are being nice. 3. Tell them that you are not interested and keep walking. 4. If they don’t leave you alone, run in the opposite direction of them and run to a neighbor’s house, a store, or find a policeman.

Situation #6 You are away from your parents, but are with some adult friends of your family or relatives. One of the relatives or family members starts to touch you too much, tries to get you to be alone with them, asks you to do things that you don’t feel is right, or asks you if you want to try alcohol or drugs.

Answer: 1. Tell them that you are not interested. That you feel uncomfortable and that you don’t want to. (It is okay to tell adults “no” if you are feeling uncomfortable.) Tell them that you want to ask your parent first. If they say, “I’m sure your mom won’t mind. Don’t tell her,” don’t give in. 2. Move away from them. If they come closer and won’t leave you alone, run and scream for help. Make sure you tell your parent what happens.

WEEK 3 - READ-ALoud

“Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day”

By Judith Voirst Macmillan Publishing Company; Atheneum, New York, 1972.

SUMMARY: Alexander wakes up with gum in his hair, he trips on a skateboard, and drops his sweater in the sink with running water. He tells himself that it is going to be a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. At breakfast his brothers find toys in their cereal boxes, but he does not. He does not get to sit next to a window in the car on the way to school, his teacher puts down his art work and singing, and he has problems with his friends at school. During all of this he keeps saying that he wishes he could be in Australia. He finds out he has a cavity at the dentist, he gets into a fight with his brothers and gets in trouble, and he makes a mess at his father’s office. He complains his way through dinner, his bath, and getting ready for bed. Before he goes to sleep, he reiterates what a terrible day it has been. His mother informs him that people have bad days even in Australia.

Teaching Tip: This story is an excellent illustration of what happens when go through the day with a bad attitude and believing the worst. Many bad things happen to Alexander, but many of his problems are brought on himself. This story provides great situations for the children to decide what a person who is in the midst of problems can do to have peace.

PRE READING QUESTIONS

1. **What does the title of this book suggest is going to happen? If you were the author what kinds of events would you have happen to Alexander?**
2. **What determines whether we have a good day or a bad day? Does it depend on what happens; if good things or bad things happen?** *(For the most part, our attitude determines whether we have a good day or a bad day. How we handle the set backs determines whether or not we will have peace.)*
3. **If God loves us, why do you think He allows us to have “bad days” as well as “good days?”** *(He wants to us the bad circumstances to develop good character in us, and to teach us to persevere (keep doing right). “Bad days” help us to appreciate the good days even more.)*

Week 3 – God’s Peace Means Trusting in God Moment By Moment

LISTENING QUESTIONS

As I read the story, be listening for the answers to these questions and we will answer them at the end of the story.

- 1. What were some of the bad things that happened to Alexander during his “bad day?”** *(he woke up with gum in his hair, he didn’t get a toy in his cereal box, the teacher liked another boy’s picture better, his friend told him that he wasn’t his best friend any more, he didn’t get a dessert in his lunch, he got a cavity, he made a mess at his father’s work, he had to eat lima beans, he had to wear his railroad-train pajamas, etc.)*
- 2. How many of the events in the story have to do with bad circumstances just happening? How many of the events in the story are caused mainly by Alexander’s bad attitude?** *(Half of the problems are just bad situations, while the other half are caused by his bad attitude.)*
- 3. How does Alexander’s response to the situations, his complaining, and his overall bad attitude contribute to his misery?** *(He makes life worse for himself. Alexander’s selfishness causes him to make up a lie in the car ride, to say mean things to his friend Paul, to punch his brother, and to disobey his father and mess up his office. His complaining just made things worse for him.)*

POST READING QUESTIONS

First answer the listening questions and then use these for your discussion.

- 1. What kind of day do you think Alexander will have tomorrow? Do you think he has more good days or bad days? Why?** *(He probably has more bad days, because he complains about all the things he doesn’t like, and that contributes to his experiencing a bad day.)*
- 2. How would you have felt if you were in Alexander’s shoes? Would you have done anything differently? If so, what?**
- 3. What could Alexander have done to experience peace during his day?** *(He could have confessed his bad attitude to God. He could have been thankful for what he did have, instead of complaining about what he didn’t have or like. He could have asked God to help him have a better day, and laid his problems at God’s feet.)*

WEEK 3 - CRAFTS

✂ Peace Reminder Stained Glass Window

MATERIALS: “The LORD is my light” stained glass window project kit, (which includes: pre-cut black construction paper, different colors of tissue paper, a tissue paper template, and glue), scissors, and you may want to substitute glue sticks for the glue.

BEFORE CRAFT TIME:

- To do this craft, you will need to order an inexpensive kit to make a tissue paper stained glass window. S&S is a company that specializes in making ready made crafts. Their phone number is 1-800-243-9232, and they sell the following craft in packs of 50 for \$13.49, or \$12.15 if you order two or more packs. The construction paper comes already cut out, and they give you plenty of different color tissue paper, and the glue. All you need is the scissors. When ordering, tell them you want number SC8-RE180. It may take a week or two to order. For a little more, they can send it quicker. Ask for a S&S Christian Crafts catalog book, because there are a lot of great, ready made crafts.
- If you have limited time or if you are working with small children, you will want to cut the tissue paper pieces out ahead of time. The older children can do this and not waste too much time. To make the tissue paper pieces, put the template underneath one sheet of tissue paper and trace the whole design. Then take four or five sheets of tissue paper with the one you just traced on top. Be very careful and cut out the shapes. Do this several times with the different color tissue paper. When you are finished, you should have plenty of all the shapes in different colors.

DURING CRAFT TIME:

- If you didn’t cut the tissue paper out earlier, have children sit in small groups, so they can share the different color tissue paper, since they won’t need a whole sheet.
- Pass out a piece of pre-cut out black construction paper, different color tissue paper, scissors, glue sticks, and the tissue paper template.
- If you didn’t cut the tissue paper out earlier, have the children put the template underneath a piece of colored tissue paper. They can trace around one or two of the shapes. Then they cut that piece out. They can do this for each of the separate shapes in the design, including two long strips to fit in place for the words.
- Once they have the tissue paper pieces cut out, they can carefully glue around the edges on the back side of the construction paper, and place the tissue paper pieces on the appropriate spots.

Week 3 – God’s Peace Means Trusting in God Moment By Moment

GUIDED CONVERSATION:

Read Psalms 27:1,2 “The LORD is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?” What is the writer of this psalm saying? *(When God is on our side, we don’t need to be afraid, but can have peace. He is our protector.)*

What are different things that people are sometimes afraid of? Should we as Christians be afraid of the same things? Why or why not?

Some people are afraid of the dark. Who does this verse encourage us to trust in when it is dark outside?

Jesus is our LIGHT. How does this help us when we are afraid? *(His light shines and makes our problems shrink, and seem small. When we are afraid because we don’t know the way, He can light our path, and show us the way to walk.)*

WEEK 3 - RECREATION

DAY ONE: Rock, Paper, Scissors Tag

MATERIALS: None

OBJECT: To beat the opposite team in showing the symbol and catching their players.

SET UP:

- The game is played on a gym court or flat playing field, divided by a center line. There is a “free zone” at the far end of each half; the boundary lines designating the free zones are parallel to the center line.
- Teach the children the symbols for Rock, Paper, and Scissors.
 - An open, flat hand is the symbol for Paper, a fist symbolizes a Rock, and two extended fingers represent Scissors.
- Teach or remind the students the order of the strengths:
 - Paper beats rock (covers it), Rock beats scissors (smashes them), and scissors beat paper (it cuts the paper).
- The players are divided into two teams and sent to their respective free zone.

TO PLAY:

- The teams huddle and decide which signal they will show as a team. They should have a second choice in case both teams give the same symbol. (You could also just choose one child for each team.)
- The teams line up on either side of the center line and chant, “Rock, Paper, Scissors.” On the next beat each team shows its symbol.
- The winning team then tries to tag as many of their opponents as possible before the opponents reach their free zone.
- Those tagged are either eliminated from the game or join the opposing team.
- After each round, the teams re-gather and choose a new symbol.
- The game continues until there is only one team left.

DISCUSSION:

- 1. How anxious did you feel as you had to determine which symbol your team would choose?**
- 2. Where you able to trust God and enjoy the game, or did the stress and anxiety get to you?**
- 3. If you had to play this game again, do you feel you would experience more peace, less peace, or the same amount of peace? Why?**

DAY TWO: Beach Ball Volleyball

MATERIALS: One volleyball net and stand, and one or two large beach balls.

OBJECT: To be the team that scores the most points.

SET UP:

- Set up the volleyball net and blow up the beach balls. The beach ball should be as large as possible. The bigger it is, the more fun the children will have.
- Divide up the children onto two teams. If there are more than fifteen on a team, you might want to have two nets set up, or let the younger ones play for five minutes while the older ones cheer, and then switch.

TO PLAY:

- The rules can be as detailed or as simple as you want.
- The players do not need to stand in a certain position, but can be a mob. The more spread out they are, though, will make it easier to get to the beach ball when it is hit on their side.
- One player serves from anywhere on his side. The ball must go over on the serve or the other team gets the ball and gets to serve.
- A team scores a point anytime they hit the ball over the net and it lands in bounds on the other side, or anytime a player on the other side hits the ball and it lands out of bounds. Note: They do not have to be the ones serving to get the point.
- There is no limit to how many times one team hits the ball on their side before it goes over. The players are allowed to hit, kick, or punch the ball anyway they like, but they cannot catch the ball.
- The team who earns the point is the team that will serve next.
- The game is played to 21 or any other number you choose.
- Note: be on the lookout for teammates, especially taller children, who are hogging the ball. Make sure that all children are able to participate.

DISCUSSION:

- 1. Did you ever become frustrated by not being able to hit the ball because your teammate kept hitting it?**
- 2. Describe how you felt when this happened. What could you have done in that situation to experience more peace?**
- 3. Can a person experience God’s “total peace” even when they lose a sporting game, like this one? Explain your answer.**

DAY THREE: Mathematical Steal the Bacon

MATERIALS: Something to use as the “bacon”, perhaps some flash cards

OBJECT: To be the team that receives the most points by having members successfully steal the “bacon.”

SET UP:

- The game is played exactly like the regular game of Steal the Bacon.
- Have the students break up into their two teams.
- Each team forms a line facing each other.
- Arrange the students in the line according to age and ability.
- Number the children in the lines. The youngest children starting at one all the way up to the oldest or fastest child. The numbers on the two lines should correspond. For instance, number one on each team should be the youngest girl on each team, while the highest number on each team should be the oldest boy, etc.
- The “bacon” (rag, chalk eraser, twig, etc.) is laid in the center between the two teams.

TO PLAY:

- The leader calls out an easy math problem, the children solve the problem silently, and the child whose number matches the answer runs out to the middle to steal the bacon. For instance, if the leader calls out $5 + 4$, then the children numbered nine should run out.
- As the child from each team runs out, they try to grab the “bacon.” If the person who grabs the “bacon” makes it back across their line without being tagged they earn a point for their team. But if they get tagged, the other team gets the point. So each child must decide if they can grab the “bacon” and successfully make it back to the line, or if they should wait for the other person to grab the “bacon” and try to tag them.
- Players may pick up the “bacon” and drop it if they think they are going to be tagged.
- The “bacon” may be kicked or tossed, but it **must be carried across the line**.
- The team at the end with the most points is the winning team.

DISCUSSION:

1. Which part of the game was hardest for you waiting to have your number called, completing the math problem, or deciding if you should pick up the “bacon” or not?
2. Were you still able to experience peace in your heart even if got tagged, or the opposing player made it safely across their line before you tagged them?
3. What percentage of the game do you feel that you experienced the peace that God wanted you to have? 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%?
4. How much of the time at school are you able to experience God’s peace 25%, 50%, 75%, or 100%? What determines whether you have peace or not?

Week 3 – God’s Peace Means Trusting in God Moment By Moment

DAY FOUR: Free Day

MATERIALS: All the fun play equipment that you have!

OBJECT: To let the child try to apply the new concepts of peace to everyday life.

SET UP:

- Let the children use any of the play equipment that they want.
- Let them set up their own games and make up their own rules if they want and if they can get anyone else to play with them.
- **OPTION:** You could put away some of their favorite toys, such as the boy’s basketballs, and see if they are able to experience peace and have fun anyway.

TO PLAY:

- Feel free to play with them, but do not take control of organizing the game.
- Ask the students to try to participate with their friends in the best way possible.
- Remind them that the rules of the center should still be abided by during this time.

DISCUSSION:

- 1. Do you think this unit on peace has helped you be able to experience peace even when problems and trials come up during the activities you play?**
- 2. Do you do the same thing at school? Why or why not?**
- 3. What are some things you can do to remind yourself to remain peaceful during trials?**

GOD'S PEACE MEANS KNOWING JESUS CARES FOR ME IN MY DARKEST HOUR: WEEK 4

WEEK 4 – BIBLE CLUB

LESSON AIM: To help the child know that even in his darkest hour Jesus is there for him.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:41-50

MEMORY VERSE: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6 & 7

The Crucifixion of Jesus

This passage contrasts the cruelty of those who crucified Jesus to the love and care of his mother in an hour of agony. The leaders sought to make a public spectacle of Jesus. It was a big joke to the governmental leaders including Pilate. They made him carry his own cross, they crucified him with criminals, they stripped off his clothes, they put a sign above his head so all could read, and crucified him. In spite of the cruelty and the humiliation, Christ was full of compassion for the people, as he asks God to forgive them (Luke 23:34), and he has compassion on the mourning ladies, including his mother. (Also see Luke 23:27-31 where Jesus addresses the rest of the women.)

It also contrasts the selfishness of the soldiers gambling for Jesus' clothing, and Jesus' selfless act of showing compassion for his mother. Many people, when in the midst of personal tragedy and loss, think only of the grief they are experiencing. But Jesus is thinking about others! He cares about the pain his mother was experiencing. He wished that he could comfort her and look after her, but all he could do was have John take his place.

Also interesting to note are all the Old Testament passages that are fulfilled by Jesus: carrying his cross (like Isaac carrying his own wood), casting lots for his clothes (Psalm 22:18), and the anguish of Mary (Luke 2:35 where Simeon testifies that “A sword will pierce your own soul too.”)

We can be certain that Jesus cares for us in our pain, just as he cared for his mother and those he passed whom he saw weeping. Even though Jesus could have been preoccupied with his own problems, his heart reached out to those who acknowledged him and who were hurting. This can comfort us. Even though there are millions of people all around, and even though Jesus is involved with various other tasks, he still can care for us in the midst of our pain! What an amazing God we serve.

Discipleship
Tip

This week *focus* in on those children who have dealt with special tragedy, like the loss of a parent, divorce, being a foster child, dying grandparent, etc. *Comfort* them with your love, and *remind* them of the Savior's love. *Teach* the others how to show compassion for those who are hurting. God can use them to be an agent of His peace to others.

Week 4 – God’s Peace is Knowing Jesus Cares for Me in My Darkest Hour

Hook

MATERIALS: Construction paper (cut into strips approx. 3” X 11”) and markers.
You will need about 10 - 12 strips per person.

- For us to adequately cover the lesson aim, would require us to design a hook where the students feel the pain of a “darkest hour” tragedy. This would be very cruel to do this to the children. Most of them have already had “dark hour” tragedies occur in their life. Most likely just asking them to remember these events will cause some of the emotions they felt while they experienced the situation to come back.
- We will have the children break off into small groups with one adult to lead each group. The children will be informed that this lesson today is very serious and that they need to be “extra” respectful and obedient.
- The leader will start off by expressing their “dark hour” tragedy. They will share a few details so that the children can understand. They should share how they felt during this time, and also how the situation worked out.
- Then the leader will ask one of the students to share their “dark hour” situation with the group. The leader will need to be careful not to force anyone to share who doesn’t feel comfortable. The leader can also ask some clarification questions, like “How did you feel?”
- After a person shares, two of the group members can put their arms around their friend and pray for them for God’s continued healing and peace.
- If very few people want to share, or the group dynamics are not right for this to occur, the small group leader can have the students look at Luke 8:22-25 and discuss how the disciple felt in this situation.
- If time permits, the children should be encouraged to make a room decoration. To do this they will need to have an encouraging verse, such as Hebrews 13:5b-6 “‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’”
- They will write their verse out on the construction paper strips, fitting about four to five words on each strip. When they get home, they can tape up their verse end to end in their room to remind them of God’s love for them.
- While they are making their verse, they can continue to share stories of how God has carried them through tough times.
- NOTE: Be aware, this lesson may bring out deeply covered emotions of pain and anger. Perhaps one staff member can be prepared to share with those who are particularly hurting.

 **Bible Story**

MATERIALS: Four small sheets or pillow cases and four bandannas to make head wraps for the four girls who will play the women in the story. Some straws for the soldiers to cast lots. A sign that says “King of the Jews.” Some additional sheets or robes that can pass as Jesus’ clothes. You can decide if you want to have additional Bible time clothes for all the characters to wear. The children can use their imagination if you aren’t able to provide costumes for the actors. Strips of paper that say 1. “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” 2. “What I have written, I have written.” 3. “Let’s not tear it. Let’s decide by lots who will get it.” 4. “Dear woman, here is your son. Here is your mother.”

- The Bible lesson today will be acted out by some of the more mature students in S.A.Y. Yes!® Children love to be actively involved in the Bible lessons, and acting out while someone else reads makes it easy for them, because they don’t have to memorize any lines. One staff member who has pretty good control of the children can be the narrator. The narrator will read the story of Jesus’ crucifixion from John 19:16-27. After each sentence, the narrator will pause and allow the students to act their parts out.
- It would work best if you could work with the children before hand. If you have open gym at the beginning, or have the narrator get the first few children that come to the center that day. If you don’t have time, some of the older students could do well ad libbing. If you don’t have them practice before hand, you will need to be prepared to help the children act out their parts if they don’t fully understand what the Bible was saying.
- You will need one student to play Jesus, two or more students to play soldiers, one to play Pilate, two or more to play chief priests, one to play Mary - Jesus’ mother, one to play Mary’s sister, one to play Mary the wife of Clopas, one to play Mary Magdalene, and one to play John. If you want to involve more people, you can have someone read the Old Testament Scripture quoted in verse 24, you can have two different groups of soldiers - one to crucify Jesus, and the other to fight over his clothing, and you can have the rest portray onlookers at Jesus’ crucifixion.
- Let the children know from the beginning that this is a serious play, and that only those who can be completely serious can volunteer to act. Choose the children and assign each one their part. Give out strips of paper with the special lines to the four actors who have lines. Have them all be seated in the front row on the floor and tell them to be listening for their part. Let them know that it is their responsibility to be a good listener and to figure out what they are to do.
- The narrator can take time during the skit to explain what the different things mean and help the children correctly act their part out. If you want, you can let those students who didn’t get a chance to act that if they are good listeners, they

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might get called next time to act in another play. If there is time, you could do this play again with different actors so everyone who wants a part can have one. Let the actors know that if they start goofing around during the play, you will assign his part to another. So that everyone can participate, you can also ask questions during the play to the audience, such as “Why do you think ‘King of the Jews’ was written in three different languages?”, “Why did the soldiers want to get Jesus’ clothes?”, “Why did the chief priests get upset when Pilate wrote ‘King of the Jews?’” and “What did Jesus mean when he talked to Mary and John?”

- To provide extra incentives, you can give out a S.A.Y. Yes!® dollar for every correct answer and to each participant in the play.
- Have the girls who play Jesus’ mother, her sister, Mary wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene present in the play the whole time. Have them stand in the back ground silently weeping, or looking sad. Give them some handkerchiefs or Kleenex to pretend like they are crying. Be sure to place special emphasis on the last three verses of the text. Comment on how loving Jesus was to his mother.
- As the narrator reads, he/she needs to make sure all of the audience and actors are paying attention. The narrator needs to read clearly, slowly, and enthusiastically. They will pause during or after each verse to allow the actors to act out their parts. If there is a line that needs to be read, they can read up to that point and look at and nod toward the right actor so that he or she can read their line.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FACT

What did the sign that was hung above Jesus’ head say? What did it mean? *(It said “King of the Jews,” and means that Jesus was the promised one of God who came to save God’s people. People who did not understand thought he was coming to reclaim the country for the Jewish people and to be a new king. They didn’t understand that his kingdom is in heaven.)*

What did the soldiers do with the straws? Why did they do that? *(They cast lots for his clothes. This means they drew straws and whoever got the short one got his clothes. They fulfilled the Scripture that was written thousands of years ago.)*

What was wrong with the four women in the story? *(They were sad because they loved Jesus and they did not want him to die.)*

What did Jesus say to his mother and to John? What did it mean? *(He told John to take care of his mother for him.)*

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FAITH

Jesus’ death on the cross was a very painful experience. He had his own problems to deal with. Why do you think he took time to care for his mother on the cross?

If you knew you were going to die in a few hours what kinds of things would you be concerned about? Would you be concerned about your own death or about your friends and family? Explain your answer.

If Jesus was even concerned about others experiencing pain when he was dying on the cross, how do you think he feels about you when you are experiencing pain? *(He cares about me, and wants to comfort me.)*

What would of happened if Mary never went to the cross and talked with Jesus about her worries? What if she would have ran to her room, shut the door, and cried by herself? *(Jesus might not have been able to comfort her. Maybe Jesus wouldn’t have asked John to take care of her.)*

FULFILLMENT

Look at Philippians 4:6,7. What does this verse say we should do when we have problems? *(We should bring our problems and worries to God.)*

What does this verse promise will happen if we bring our problems to God with thanksgiving? *(God’s peace will fill our hearts.)*

Take some time and have the children share their problems with the Lord. Have them pray individually if they want. Ask God to fill their hearts with peace concerning the problems they are facing. Remind them that God cares about them, and that He might not make the problem go away, but will be with them in the midst of it.

WEEK 4 - SKIT

Skit #1

- SCENE:** Bobby comes over to Reuben's house to see if he can come out to play basketball with him. Bobby rings the door bell.
- Reuben:** (Opens the door, and is very sad. He has been crying.) Hello. Oh, its you.
- Bobby:** (In amazement, and concern) Reuben, what's wrong? You look like its the end of the world.
- Reuben:** I feel like it is. I just found out that my grandmother died. (Puts his face in his hands and cries)
- Bobby:** Ah, Man, I'm sorry to hear that. (Puts his arm around Reuben) You must feel terrible, because I know you were close to her. You know, she was a good woman. She even treated me nice.
- Reuben:** Yeah, I know. What I can't figure out is why God would take her away from us. My parents keep telling me that she is with Jesus now. Why does He need her? He's got lots of other people up there. We needed her more down here.
- Bobby:** Well, maybe its what is best for her. I mean she was getting kind of old, and she was always complaining about different aches and pains. You could tell it was hard for her to get around.
- Reuben:** Maybe you're right. But sometimes it feels like life is so unfair. While my grandmother lived on the earth she was in pain. Now that she is gone, I'm in pain. I just wish it was more easier.
- Bobby:** Well, I know one thing. Even though life is unfair, Jesus makes the pain bearable. You know how I often get depressed when my mother is drinking, but Jesus is always there to encourage me and lets me know that he won't leave me. Its kind of like that story in the Bible about Jesus and Lazarus. Do you remember when Jesus' friend Lazarus died, and his sisters, Mary and Martha were sad?
- Reuben:** Yeah, Jesus came and comforted them. He even cried, because he was sad, and didn't want Mary and Martha to be sad. But then He brought Lazarus back from the dead. And I don't think Jesus is going to raise my grandmother from the dead.
- Bobby:** Probably not. But Jesus cares about your pain all the same. He also promised that since both you and your grandmother believe in Jesus, that you will be able to see her again some day in heaven.
- Reuben:** Its good to know that she is with Jesus right now, and that I'll get to see her someday, even though I can't right now. I'm glad Jesus is in my heart and can give me peace even in the midst of this sad situation.

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Bobby: Hey, now that you're feeling a little better, do you think you'd be up for a little basketball?

Reuben: Yeah, I guess so. Let's go.

Discussion Questions:

1. **From this skit what did you learn about God's peace?** *(When you are going through a bad situation, God's peace can cheer you up, because you know that God cares for you.)*
2. **How can Jesus love and presence really make a difference when you are experiencing something bad? Does anyone have an example to share from their own life?**
3. **How do you know that Jesus cares for people who have lost loved ones, like their grandmother?** *(Jesus was sad for Mary and Martha when Lazarus died.)*

Skit #2

SCENE: LaTasha calls Maria on the telephone. She is very frightened.

LaTasha: (Holding the telephone, it rings, there is an answer.) Hello, is Maria there?

Maria: Yeah, this is Maria. LaTasha is that you?

LaTasha: Yes, its me. Something terrible just happened. You have to come over here quick. I'm really scared.

Maria: Okay, but first you have to tell me what happened.

LaTasha: Maria, our house has been broken into. I just came home from the plaza. I knew my grandma was going over to her friend's house for the day, so I didn't expect anyone to be home. When I got off the bus and walked up to my porch, I realized that the front door was open a little bit. When I opened it and went inside, I saw that the house was all torn up. Someone has broken in.

Maria: You're sure that they are still not there, right?

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- LaTasha:** Yes, I went in every room, and then I called the police, and then I called you. I can't wait for the police, I need you to come over now.
- Maria:** Well, it will take at least fifteen minutes for me to make it over there. The police should be there by then.
- LaTasha:** Can't you come any quicker? Can't you ask your parents to drive you?
- Maria:** I can't. They are both gone.
- LaTasha:** Oh Maria....What am I going to do?
- Maria:** Calm down, girl. Jesus is there with you. Let's pray, Jesus can protect you. Dear Jesus, thank you that LaTasha is safe with you. Thank you that you love her, and will protect her. I pray that you would watch over her, and help the police to get there quickly. Give her your supernatural peace, like we learned about in S.A.Y. Yes!® In Jesus name, Amen.
- LaTasha:** Thanks for praying. I feel a little more calmer now. I sure am glad that God did not allow them to brake in while I was home by myself. I don't think I could of handled it. I don't think I could have even made it until the police came if you hadn't prayed for me.
- Maria:** Sometimes when trouble comes we forget that God never leaves us and walks through the problems with us. He won't let you suffer beyond what you can bear. He loves you LaTasha.
- LaTasha:** I sure am glad.
- Maria:** Well, hold on, I'm on my way over. See you in a few minutes. Bye.
- LaTasha:** Thanks. Bye.

Discussion Questions:

1. **What did LaTasha need to remember during her trial?** *(That God loves her, will never leave her, and will take care of her.)*
2. **What do you think would have happened to LaTasha if Maria would not have been there to pray for her friend?** *(She might have stayed in her anxious state, maybe done something foolish, etc)*
3. **When we have friends who are experiencing great trials and problems what can we do to help them?** *(Encourage them, pray for them, be with them, etc.)*

WEEK 4 - MEMORY VERSE

MEMORY VERSE: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6,7

EXPLANATION OF THE VERSE

These verses are great promises to us that God will give us His incredible peace if we bring our problems to Him. He does not promise us that He will work things out the way we want, but He will give us peace. We are commanded not to be anxious, so when we are constantly walking around worrying about things, we are in sin. This verse also mentions that spending time thanking God for what He will do and what He has already done helps to bring us peace.

Head To Head Word Scramble

MATERIALS: Large Bulletin Board with push pins. Write out, or type out on the computer, the words of the memory verse on separate pieces of paper. You can decide if you want each piece of paper to contain a separate word, or if you want to write them in 2 - 3 word phrases. Make at least two sets. (Other sets of past unit’s memory verses are needed if you desire to play the second part of the game.)

- Divide the students into two teams.
- Attach the pieces of paper with the different words to the Bulletin board with the push pins. Make sure they are in random order. Place one set of the words on one side, and the other set of words on the other side of the board.
- Choose one player from each team to come up to their side of the board.
- When the leader says, “GO,” both players race to try to put their verse in the correct order the fastest.
- The other players are to verbally encourage their team mate. They can quote the verse, shout out the next word, or say anything that will help their team mate out.
- The team that gets it in order the quickest is the winner, and they get a point.
- Those two players go to their opponents words and scramble them up for the next player.
- The leader chooses a new player from each team and the game is started once again.
- Points can be taken away from a team if the other on their team are not being helpful.

Grand Word Scramble

- After the Head to Head Word Scramble has been played several times, get some other pieces of paper that has words from all of the other verses that the children have learned so far this year. (If you have played regular word scramble with them before, you probably had sets of paper made for these verses. Its a good idea to keep these sets handy for review.)
- Grand Word Scramble is a good review game of past memory verses, as well as this month’s verse.
- You can keep the children in two groups, or split them up into small groups according to the number of memory verse sets that you have for each verse.
- Take one set of words of each of the memory verses for each group of children and scramble them all together in one big pile.
- When the leader says, “GO,” the students are to try to separate all the words out into the correct memory verse. They are trying to be the first group to correctly put all of the memory verses in order.
- If you want, you can assign two children in each group a particular verse, or you can let them all work as a team however they choose.
- After one team wins, let the other groups finish. Once they are all finished, you can let them try it a second time.
- Candy prizes or S.A.Y. Yes![®] dollars can be awarded to the winning teams.

WEEK 4 - PRACTICAL LIVING



Journaling About Grief

MATERIALS: Some sort of Journal for every student, pens or pencils for every student, and markers.

This practical living will give the students the opportunity to write down their feelings about bad experiences they are currently going through or have gone through in the past. This practical living can piggy back on the craft and practical living from Trust - week number two, if you have done that curriculum unit recently.

- For this practical living, you will need to have some sort of prayer journal for every student. To have the students learn to regularly write in a prayer journal is a great idea. I would encourage you to allow this activity to be a spring board into a wonderful on-going experience for the children. Learning to journal regularly will help the students communicate with the Lord more often, it will teach them to be more reflective, it will help their writing skills, and it will be an excellent thing for them to be able to look back over when they are older to see how God was working in their life.
- To use it regularly, you can have the students take it home and bring it back once a week. You can give S.A.Y. Yes!® dollars to the ones who bring it back with something written in it. Or, you can keep the journals at the center and allow the students to write in it if they finish their homework early or during tutoring time.
- There are several options that you can choose from to have journals for the students. 1. You could go to an office supply store and find inexpensive notebooks for the children to use as their journals. This is the most expensive plan, but offers the most durable journal, and may be more exciting for the students, since they get “their own” journal. 2. The second option would be for the students to make their own journal, like in the Trust curriculum from week number 2. To do this, you can cut pieces of paper to 8.5” X 5.5” (half sheet of regular paper), staple them together, and place them inside a folded piece of construction paper to make a little booklet. To make it the cover a little sturdier, you can glue the construction paper on pieces of cardboard. This option is cheaper, but takes a little time, and they need to be done before this practical living. If you choose, you could make the booklets during craft time instead of the craft in the unit this week. 3. You could just let the students write out their experiences down on regular notebook paper, and keep them in a folder.

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- Once you secure the journals of your choice for the students, follow these steps during the practical living time:
- Have one of the S.A.Y. Yes![®] staff who journals regularly (hopefully their is one), bring their journal and show it to the class. They should tell why they started journaling, how it has helped them, why it is important, and how it is good to look back and see what God has done in their life. If they feel so led, they can read a small section from their journal.
- Tell the students that journals are good because:
 - They help us to write out and understand our feelings better.
 - They help us write out prayers to God, and communicate with Him in a different way than usual.
 - They help us to be reflective, and think about where our lives have been, where we are going, what God is teaching us, so that we can be better people.
 - As we get older, we can look back and see what God has done in our lives.
- Tell the students that they can write the following things in a journal:
 - They can write out their prayers to God, including confession, thanksgiving, praise, and prayer requests.
 - They can record answers to prayer and things that God is teaching them.
 - They can write down their feelings and stories that happen so that they can remember them better in the future, and so that they can process them better now.
 - They can write out poems or raps to Jesus, draw pictures to Jesus, or other creative things.
- Let the students know that journals are confidential, so that when they write in them no one else will read what they have written. Let them know that if they keep their journals at the center, that they will remain confidential. If they take them home, remind the students to keep them in a safe place.
- Let them also know that in their journals spelling does not need to be perfect, but that they should use their best handwriting, so that they will be able to read it if they choose to when they are older.
- Show them a sample of the journal that they will be using. Let them know that in a few seconds you will pass one out to them. Let them know that although you won’t be reading them, you will be looking to make sure that they are doing what they are supposed to do, which is write in them. They should know that the journals are to be used only for this special purpose, not to write phone numbers down in, not to do homework in, and not to doodle in.

Week 4 – God’s Peace is Knowing Jesus Cares for Me in My Darkest Hour

- Tell the students that to start their journal off today, we will be writing about something to do with peace. Say, **“When we think back about painful situations in the past, or about problems we are currently going through, we often do not have peace. Journaling about these experiences help us to experience peace by facing these things with God. Journaling also helps us be able to express our feelings and thoughts and get them out in the open, even if we do not feel comfortable talking about it to others. It is dangerous to keep feelings or thoughts about the past “bottled up” inside of us. Journaling is a healthy way of dealing with pain.”**
- Encourage them to start by saying something like , **“Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me so much. I want to share my feelings with you about something that has caused me a lot of pain.** “ They can continue writing their feelings out about this event.
- For younger children, this practical living will be a little bit harder. You can encourage them to write their feelings out, even if they can’t spell too well. For those who can’t write at all, have them draw out their experiences. Have a few staff available to go around to those drawing these pictures and write out some of their feelings for them at the bottom of the page.
- Some children may have blocked out their bad experiences, and may say, “I have nothing to write about.” Still encourage them that no one will read their journal, and to try by writing about a situation that isn’t as difficult as others. If you know of any problems he or she is having, maybe you can suggest that they write about that. Maybe they have had a problem recently at S.A.Y. Yes!®, such as a fight with another child, or maybe they got a warning. Let them know that as they write about little problems they have had, that may jog their memory about other things.
- Make sure every child has a place to write where he or she will not be interrupted. They should feel comfortable and safe. Separate people who are tempted to talk a lot.
- At the end of practical living, it may be appropriate to lead the children in prayer about the topics that they have been writing about.

WEEK 4 - READ-ALOUD

“The Volunteer at Auschwitz”

By Chuck Colson *The Book of Virtues*, p. 803.

MATERIALS: You might want to have a world map so that you can show the students where Germany and Poland are.

SUMMARY: This is a true story about Father Maximilian Kolbe, who was a priest in Poland. His homeland was invaded in 1939 during World War II. He was taken to Amtitz, a prison camp, but was released after two weeks. Hitler later decided he wanted all the priests who would not submit to his orders to be brought to Auschwitz, to do hard labor. This camp was a lot worse, and many died of hunger or exhaustion after only a month. Colson shares his experience of how he was beaten and left for dead, but later picked up and brought to the hospital. All along his faith in God never wavered. He shares also about the millions of Jews who were killed in gas chambers at this camp. This narrative ends with a person from his barracks escaping the camp. Ten of the people are chosen to go to the starvation bunker. Father Kolbe, who was already an inspiration to many, asks if he may take one of the men’s place, because he has a wife and child. The commandant surprisingly agrees. While in the starvation bunker, he encourages the others and leads them in singing praise songs. After a few days, he is the only one left, and a doctor comes and injects him with a syringe to make him die.

Teaching Tip: This story is very gruesome, especially for younger children, but it definitely fits in the theme of “trusting Christ in the darkest hour to experience peace.” For younger children, you might need to skip some parts, paraphrase them, or just retell the story in your own words. Even for older children, you may need to occasionally stop to explain unfamiliar words or concepts. Don’t skip this story though, because it does an excellent job of showing someone who has peace even in the worst circumstance.

(Note: After this was completed, I noticed that this story is also included in the Trust curriculum. If you already used this story, consider using a segment from the *Diary of Anne Frank*. She also had peace in the midst of great tragedy.

Week 4 – God’s Peace is Knowing Jesus Cares for Me in My Darkest Hour

PRE READING QUESTIONS

1. **Can anyone tell us what happened during World War II? What nations did the U.S. fight against? What was the war about? What happened to many people, especially to Jewish people?** *(The U.S. fought, with others, against Germany and Japan. Adolf Hitler taught the Germans that they were better people than everyone else, and that they should rule the world. He also taught that there were some people who were terrible, who stood in their way of world domination, who should be killed. Many people, including six million Jews were put to death, many by dying in a gas chamber.)*
2. **Do you think that God made one race of people who are superior to all the rest? Are there any groups of people who are no good and who should be put to death or made to be slaves? Are there still people who believe these things today?** *(No. Everyone is special in God’s sight. Yes, there are people who believe they are better than others.)*
3. **What do you think it would have been like to be a Jewish person during World War II? What would you have done if you were Jewish?**

LISTENING QUESTIONS

As I read the story, be listening for the answers to these questions and we will answer them at the end of the story. If you don’t understand a particular part of the story, raise your hand, and I will try to explain it to you.

1. **What did Father Kolbe like to do with his day? What happened to him at the beginning of the story to change this?** *(He liked to sit at his desk with a globe and pray for the world. This was interrupted when the Germans came and brought him to a prison camp.)*
2. **What was life like in the Auschwitz camp? What happened to him there?** *(It was terrible. People had to do hard labor, like carry fallen trees, they got mistreated, they got little food, and had to listen and watch people being killed. He fell one day under a heavy load of wood. The guards kicked him and beat him and left him for dead, but some people saved him.)*
3. **What was Father Kolbe’s attitude while he was at Auschwitz, and what kind things did he do for people?** *(He trusted in God, did not complain, and was friendly. He encouraged people, shared the little food he got, volunteered to die in someone’s place, and taught praise songs to others who were dying.)*

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POST READING QUESTIONS

First answer the listening questions and then use these for your discussion.

- 1. Most people in this situation would get angry or be afraid. How was Father Kolbe’s attitude different? Why do you think it was different?** *(He was encouraging to others. His attitude was more peaceful, kind, and he did not complain or get in fights. He was able to have this supernatural peace, even at this terrible time, because he trusted in God.)*
- 2. What thing do you admire most about Father Kolbe? What would you have done if you were in his situation? Do you think that you would be willing to die for someone else? Who has done something similar - died in the place of someone else? Who did that person die for?** *(Jesus died in our place. We were the ones deserving to die, but He took our punishment, because He loves us.)*
- 3. Compare Father Kolbe’s situation to Alexander’s situation that we read last week. Who had it worse? Which one had peace Alexander or Father Kolbe? Why?** *(Father Kolbe’s situation was much worse, but he was the one who had peace, because he trusted in God, and had a good attitude, while Alexander did not.)*
- 4. Compare the problems that you are currently going through to what Father Kolbe went through? Are yours as bad as his? What can you learn from him on how to experience peace in the midst of your darkest hour?** *(Ours are probably not as bad as his problems. We can learn that God can give us the power to trust in Him, do what is right, to be kind to others, and to have peace. Even when we are in a tight spot, we can focus on Jesus, and look for ways to encourage other people.)*

WEEK 4 - CRAFTS

✂ Magnetic Picture Frame of Love

MATERIALS: magnetic strips, one sheet of white card stock for each child, markers, calligraphy pens (if possible), glue sticks, (Polaroid camera and film if possible), rulers

This week the children will make a colorful picture frame with words of encouragement that they can give to a relative or friend who is going through a rough time. If you have the time and resources, it would be nice if you could take a picture of each student to put in their picture frames, but this is not necessary.

- **Pre-craft preparation:** Purchase rolls of magnetic strips at an office supply store. Figure out how much magnetic strip is required to hold up the size of the picture frame you are making and cut the magnetic strips accordingly. Many of these rolls come with adhesive on one side of the strip, so that you can stick it right on the picture frame.
- You will also need to figure out what size to make the picture frame. Most people have pictures that are 3.5" X 5". Make the frame at least an inch wider on each side. So if your picture is 3.5" X 5", you would need to cut two pieces of card stock that are 5.5" X 7" (To make it simple, you could just cut an 8.5" X 11" (standard size) in half. One piece will be the back of the frame, and the other piece will be the front.
- For younger children it would be a good idea to cut out the front part of the frame for them. To do this, measure in one inch from the top and bottom, and 2.25" from the sides (if you cut the 8.5" X 11" piece of standard card stock in half). Punch the scissors through and carefully cut around the lines that you drew.
- **During Craft Time:** Pass out the pieces of card stock. Give the children a ruler and have them measure in from the edges the distance that they need on each side to make the picture fit perfectly in the middle. For instance if the picture is 3.5" X 5", and your paper is 5.5" X 8.5", have them mark in 2.25 inches from the left and right, and 1 inch from the top and bottom.
- Then have them take scissors and carefully punch a hole in the middle, and neatly trim out the square in the middle where the picture will go. Leave the other piece of card stock uncut.
- Have them decide if the picture they will use is bigger horizontally or vertically, and have them turn their card stock accordingly. Have them glue the bottom, the left side, and the right side of the uncut card stock piece to the back of their frame. Make sure there is enough room for a picture to fit in. Leave the top unglued so that they can put their picture in later.

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- Have them decorate the outside of the picture frame with words like, "I'm praying for you," "I love you," "Jesus loves you and can comfort you," etc. These can be written with the calligraphy pens. After the words are written in, have the children color or decorate the rest of the frame as they wish. Another idea is to have them write their memory verse around the frame.
- Pass out the little pieces of magnetic strips and have them stick them to the back top of their picture frame.
- While they are making their frames, conversationally ask them who they are making their picture frame for. Ask them why they chose to give it to that person. Remind them that it should go to someone who they think is sad, or has had something bad happen to them recently. Remind them to pray for that individual as well.

WEEK 4 - RECREATION

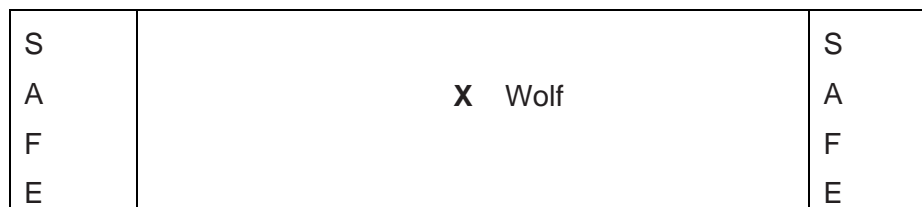
DAY ONE: Sheep Across the River

MATERIALS: None.

OBJECT: To be the last “sheep” left that the wolf did not catch.

SET UP:

- Choose a large playing field, like a gym floor and mark off a safe zone at either of the two long ends.



- Choose one student to be the wolf. They stand in the middle of the center line.
- All the other students stand on one line, preparing to run to the other line.

TO PLAY:

- When the wolf yells, “SHEEP ACROSS THE RIVER” all the students try to run from the side they are standing on, to the safety of the other boundary line.
- If the wolf touches them, they have to freeze in the exact spot where they were touched. Then they put their arms straight out to their side. They cannot move at all. You can even have them sit on the ground with their hands out.
- Once the players have either reached the other side or are frozen in the middle somewhere, the wolf turns to face the sheep, and yells again, “SHEEP ACROSS THE RIVER.”
- This time, if the wolf touches the sheep they are out, as usual, but if the sheep run into an already tagged player, they are also out. The players who are frozen, are not supposed to try to tag the sheep who are running, they are just supposed to be obstacles to try to get through.
- Continue to play until there is only one player left. They are the wolf in the next game.

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- If there are students who are still at the starting line after almost everyone has run across to the other side, count to ten out loud. If they do not run by the time you finish counting, they are out and must find a place on the field to stand and freeze with their arms out.
- If a player runs out of bounds on the sides when they are trying to get away from the wolf, they are also out, and must freeze with their arms out.
- If you have a lot of children, you can have two or three people be the wolf. The game goes much quicker and more students get a chance to be the wolf.

DISCUSSION:

- 1. Did you play fairly the whole game or did anxiety and pressure to win cause you to cheat?**
- 2. How did it feel when you got tagged and you had to stand or sit still with your arms out? Did you feel frustrated?**
- 3. Sometimes people get tagged, but they don’t feel it (A shirt sleeve, hair, or pant leg is tagged). The person says he isn’t tagged, but he is. Can this person experience God’s peace? How so?**
- 4. Are you peaceful, even when you feel like someone has lied to you, talked about you behind your back, or are mean to you? What can you do if you don’t have peace?**

DAY TWO: Black Light Balloon Ball

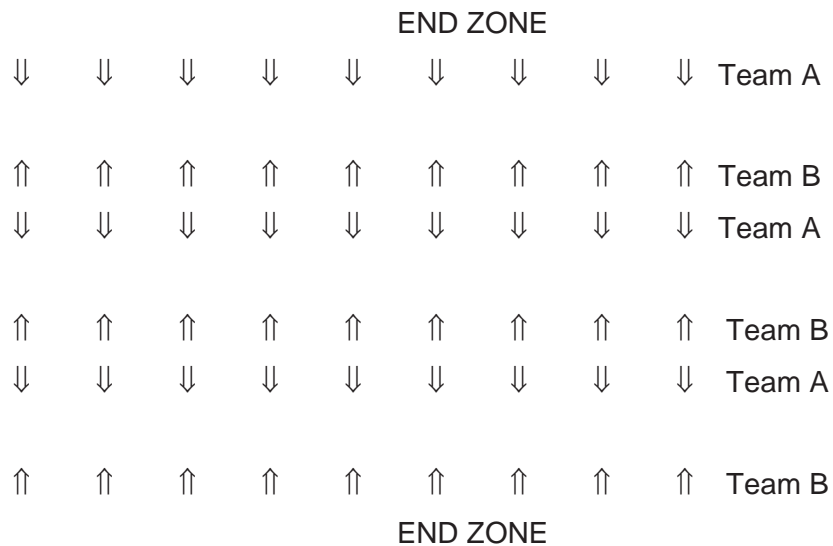
MATERIALS: A chair for each participant, balloons, strips of paper, tape, one or two black lights - fluorescent light fixtures. (These Black lights can be purchased at specialty party stores or trick shops fairly inexpensively. Since the lights can be used over and over again, they are worth it to buy them. You can use these to turn many regular games into even more exciting ones. This is one of the children’s favorite games at our center. I suggest getting two lights.)

OBJECT: To get the glow-in-the-dark balloon into the opposing team’s end zone.

SET UP:

- Before S.A.Y. Yes!®, look over the room you are expecting to play the game in. Turn out the lights to test how dark it will be. Attempt for that day to make it as dark as you can. This may involve covering over door windows with construction paper, closing curtains, unscrewing lights in exit signs, etc.
- Also before S.A.Y. Yes!® blow up approximately ten balloons, and tape two inch strips of white paper all over the balloons. (white paper, and almost everything else that is white, glows in the fluorescent light).
- When it comes time for the game, arrange chairs as shown.

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- Place the fluorescent light high above the playing field. You can have two people holding the lights, you can mount them to a wall, or set them on a book case.
- Divide players into their two teams.
- People on team A faces one direction, and the players on team B face the other direction. They sit back to back with opposing team mates.
- Tell the children how to play BEFORE you turn off the lights, and tell them how you expect them to behave.

TO PLAY:

- Turn off the lights.
- Make sure all of the students are seated and acting properly. One of the leaders tosses a balloon into the center of the group.
- The players may not stand up at any time and their bottoms should remain in the chair at all times.
- Players bat the balloon with their hands trying to move it towards the opposing team’s end zone.
- When the balloon goes over the last row of chairs at one end, the team facing the direction of that end zone earns a point.
- There is no real goalie in this game, except for the last row of chairs.
- Counselors should stand along the sidelines to throw back any balloon that goes out of bounds.
- The winning team is the team that scores the most points.

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DISCUSSION:

1. How did you feel when the lights were turned out? Were you still able to have peace or did you become afraid?
2. Why do you think some people are afraid of the dark?
3. What would you tell a friend of yours who was afraid of the dark to do in order to experience peace?
4. When a balloon popped did you become afraid then? What are some other things that make you feel scared?
5. How can knowing Jesus help you when you are afraid?

DAY THREE: Straws and Paper Relay

MATERIALS: One straw for each person, one paper plate per team, one chair per team, and one 1 inch square paper for each player.

OBJECT: To be the first team whose players all have carried their paper squares back to its starting point and is sitting down.

SET UP:

- Divide the children up evenly into at least four teams, and have each team line up next to each other facing the same direction.
- In front of each team, about 10-15 yards place a chair.
- On each of the chairs place a paper plate with one paper square for each person on the team.
- Give the players standing in line their straws.

TO PLAY:

- When the leader says, “Go” the first person in each line runs down to their chair with their straw in their mouth.
- When they get to their chair, they must have their hands behind their backs.
- They attempt to suck up a paper square onto the end of his straw and walk back to his team without the paper square falling off.
- If the square falls off while he is walking, he must bend down and suck up the paper again without using his hands.
- Once he gets back to his team, the next player goes.
- The winning team is the team that carries all of their square pieces back to their team the fastest and is sitting down.

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The M&M Candy Relay

MATERIALS: The same chairs and paper plates as above, one individual sized package of M&M’s® for each team.

OBJECT: To be the team who eats their M&M’s® the quickest and is sitting down.

SET UP:

- Leave the teams in the same set up as the Straws and Paper relay.
- Throw away their straws and paper.
- Take one individual sized package of M&M’s® and pour them out onto the paper plates.
- You can have one adult stand by each plate or M&M’s® or assign one adult to supervise two plates at the same time.

TO PLAY:

- When the leader says, “Go,” the first player in each line runs down to the plate of M&M’s®.
- The supervising adult tells the child what color of M&M’s® to eat, and the child proceeds to select all the M&M’s of that color and eat them.
- He then races back to his line and the next person goes.
- The winning team is the one who finishes all of their M&M’s the fastest and is sitting down again.
- NOTE: Have a few extra packs of M&M’s® on hand in case there are more children in each line than there are colors of M&M’s. You should already have figured this out before hand. If you have more people in each line than colors of M&M’s, you can have one child eat half of the number of one color, and another child eat the other half. You can also add other things for the extra people to eat, such as a Hershey’s kiss, a Reese’s peanut butter cup, etc.

DISCUSSION:

1. **How frustrated did you get when your team was losing?**
2. **Did the paper square ever fall off of your straw? How did you feel then?**
3. **Do you feel like others got to eat more M&M’s® than you? How do you feel about that?**
4. **What have you learned this month that can help you deal with life’s little troubles like these?**
5. **Have you had any positive experiences this month on how you were able to trust Jesus with a problem and experience His peace?**

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DAY FOUR: Free Play

MATERIALS: All the fun equipment that you can find.

- Have fun and let your students enjoy themselves as they play on their own.