



SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS...MATTHEW 6:33

Fruit of the Spirit

Peace - Lesson 3

“We have been made right with God because of our faith. Now we have peace with Him because of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1 NIRV

Circle Time

First we learned that “We have been made right with God because of our faith. Now we have peace with Him because of our Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 5:1. Then we learned that when we have peace with God the Holy Spirit increases the peace in our hearts. Only God can give us this sense of peace in our lives and make it grow.

God not only wants us to live in peace with Him but He wants us to live at peace with each other. This can only happen if we ask for God’s love and peace to live with us. How much does God love us? What did He do so we can have peace with Him? (He sent His Son Jesus.) His Spirit will increase and strengthen peace in us so we can have this love and peace with our friends and family. When the Spirit is in us, we should see the aspects of the fruit displayed in our attitudes and actions: we need to love others instead of fighting; we should be patient and wait for others instead of pushing them out of the way to go first; we need to show others kindness instead of being mean; gentleness instead getting mad and yelling at someone or hitting them; and we need to be self-controlled instead of being rough or easily angered.

We cannot be at peace with someone if we are fighting or arguing or we are being unloving or unkind. But God is love and He brings peace to all who accept His love and love Him. God wants us to love others as He loves us. Showing love to our friends and our enemies and being willing to be peacemakers shows others God’s love for them. When we have a hard time loving someone, we need to talk to God and He will help us see His love for that person. When someone wants to fight or argue with us, we can be a peacemaker by saying, “Let’s not argue. It doesn’t matter which one of us is right or wrong.” What does matter is that we are made right with God. That is how we have the peace and joy that the Holy Spirit gives. And we are to do everything we can to live at peace with one another and build each other up. (Romans 14:19) We need to say things that encourage other people and not tease them or put them

down. When people do things to us that hurt our feelings or make us mad we need to talk to them about it and forgive them even if they don't deserve it.

Let's pray and ask God to help us to have peace with others and forgive each other like He makes peace with us and forgives us.

Prayer Time

Activity Time

The goal of this time is to utilize a variety of engaging activities –passive and active play, crafts, application, and more – to reinforce what was taught in the lesson. While you may not get to or through every activity, we encourage you to complete the “Take-Home” activity so children leave with a tangible reminder of what was discussed today.

If numbers are high and/or time and space allow, you may want to use a center format: divide the class into groups (one for each activity) and rotate through the centers after an allotted time.



Memory Verse Puzzles

Supplies:

Verse cards

Half sheet colored cardstock

Glue sticks

Give each child a memory verse card. Have them cut the card into 4-5 “puzzle” pieces. Then have them glue their verse puzzles to the colored piece of paper. Go over the verse and talk about how the Holy Spirit increases our peace as we trust in Jesus. Have them say the verse three times. When they put their puzzle together, talk to them about how we need to remember to be at peace with others like God makes peace with us and forgives us. He can heal our broken relationship with Him and He can heal our relationships with others as well.

“We have been made right with God because of our faith. Now we have peace with him because of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1



Three-Legged Race

Supplies:

Scarves

Bandanas or panty hose

Have children get into pairs. Tie one of each pair's ankles with a scarf, bandana, or panty hose. You will be tying a right leg to a left leg so that the pair is facing the same direction. Make sure there isn't anything hanging down to trip the team and don't tie it too tight. Have everyone line up at the starting line. Tell the racers that they must stay tied and all "three" legs must be used. Give the signal to start the race. Have them race down around a chair and back. They need to be at peace with each other and work together to get to the chair and back.



Cooperation

Supplies:

Beanbags (1 per child)

Give each child a beanbag to place on his/her head. Have the children attempt to keep the beanbags on their heads while doing something you ask them to do, such as skip, hop, jump, run in place, etc. If the beanbag falls off, the player is frozen. The other players must try to help their friends by putting their friends' beanbags back on their heads without knocking their own off.



Peacemakers

Supplies:

Scenario cards

Have the children take turns picking a scenario card from the bin. Go over each scenario with the children (help them read their cards) and have them decide whether they are a peacemaker or not in each one. If they are not a peacemaker in their scenario have them try and think of a new peaceful way to respond instead.

1. Your brother took your toy away from you and you grab it back from him.
2. You are supposed to go out for ice cream with your grandmother, but she calls and says she is not feeling well and can't take you. You tell her that you forgive her and you will be happy to go when she is feeling better.
3. You are at the store with your mom and you want a candy bar so you jump up and down and stomp your feet hoping she will get it for you.
4. You are waiting to go down the slide and another child comes up and pushes his way through to go first. You let him/her go first.
5. You are doing a craft at church and there is one sticker left. Instead of fighting over it, you let another child have it.
6. You are playing outside in the backyard and your dad calls you and says it is time for dinner. You come in right away and help him set the table.
7. Your sister accidentally hits you in the head while she is goofing around and dancing. She apologizes but you yell at her and tell her she did it on purpose.

8. The neighbor boy is unkind and bullies kids in the neighborhood. One day he falls off his bike and gets hurt. The other kids laugh at him but you go over and help him and see if he is ok.



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