

GOD MADE ME TO BRING PEACE

3-4

BIBLE VERSES: 1 Samuel 25, Ephesians 6:10-18, Colossians 1:15-23.

In this session we'll see how God made us to be peace loving and peace promoting.

LEADER'S NOTES

God calls us to be people of peace. We are made in his image and so reflect his peaceful nature. But this isn't just about not fighting with others, or even just about helping others in conflict resolution (although both those things are part of it): this is about us pointing others to the way that they can be reconciled to God through Jesus' blood shed on the cross (Colossians 1:19-20). That is quite a high concept for 3-4 year olds but I really believe that the more they are exposed to this truth, the more it will become part of who they are.

Welcome Activities: If this session is being run as a 'Sunday School' session then the idea is that all 3 activities are provided, allowing the children choice. If it is being run as part of a Toddler Group then these activities can be provided as part of the all the other activities on offer. If it is part of a short Toddler and Parent worship session (e.g. Pram Service) then it may only be practical to offer one of the activities.

The idea is that these activities give the children and any parents time to relax and become used to the environment. As the activities will be linked in some way to the theme they will provide a bit of a bridge or introduction to the Bible story.

Story Time: Choose whichever Story Time activity best suits your circumstances. It would be best to use the same area and seating arrangement each time. Probably helpful if it's separate from other distractions. Perhaps with a special chair for the story teller to sit on.

In today's session, there is one story showing Abigail's peace promoting behaviour and two more illustrative/reflective activities thinking about how we bring peace and how Jesus makes peace between us and God.

Get Creative: A choice of 3 activities reflecting the Bible Story in some way. If you have lots of time and space then you could offer all 3, but just to offer 1 is fine. Children of this age are exploring their own ideas and ways of creating so may go off on their own tangent e.g. if you ask them to make a sheep they may well turn it into something else – don't be anxious about this – 3 year olds especially are much more interested in the 'doing' than the finished product.

The fourth Get Creative Activity will be a suggestion for a creative prayer activity. This is specifically for any parents/carers who are staying with their children. The activity is not intended for the children and you might like to have a leader on hand to talk or pray with any adult who needs this interaction.

If you are in a Sunday School setting where no parents stay then you would not need to organise this

activity.

Revisiting The Story: Similar to the three welcome activities and may well include some of those. An opportunity for the children to revisit and retell the story themselves using small world figures, dressing up etc. The idea would be that if you chose a making activity in the Get Creative section then the children could move on to the Revisiting The Story activities when they've finished – there is no need for the whole group to finish together.

The fourth activity “Time To Go Home” in this section suggests a take home activity and also a short prayer or song which you can use if you want to round up the sessions with all the children together again. If you want to you could adopt your own special good bye song. In other circumstances it may be better to have an informal ending with parents collecting children as the children are continuing to play.

SMALL WORLD

ACTIVITY |  **WELCOME ACTIVITY**

Make small world toys available for the children to play with.

The Point: A welcome activity.

EQUIPMENT

Small world toys that include people, a dolls house would be great as part of this.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

DRESS UP

ACTIVITY |  **WELCOME ACTIVITY**

Have a box of dressing up clothes for the children to explore.

The Point: A welcome activity.

EQUIPMENT

Dressing up clothes.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

LINES

CRAFT IDEAS | WELCOME ACTIVITY

Let the children create pictures by gluing the strips of paper onto a large sheet.

The Point: A welcome activity.

EQUIPMENT

A4 paper, lots of strips of different coloured paper (use a guillotine), glue sticks.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

DAVID AND ABIGAIL

STORY | STORY TIME

Choose three volunteers to be David, Nabal and Abigail. Everyone else is one of David's men. If you want, you can give the three characters a simple prop or name sticker.

Introduce David to the children. Say that this is David. He is a friend of God and one day he will be King of God's people but at the moment he is in trouble and the man who is king just now (Saul) is out to get him. Say that David and his men are travelling from place to place to stay safe. Say that in this story they are in the Desert of Maon.

Introduce Nabal to the children. Say that this is Nabal. He is very, very rich and he is an important man in the area where David is just now. Say that he is very grumpy and mean.

Introduce Abigail to the children. Say that she is Nabal's wife. She is very beautiful, intelligent and kind.

Say that David's men were hungry, so David sent some messengers to Nabal to ask if he could give them something to eat. David's men had always been kind to Nabal's men so David thought Nabal might help them. Choose some of David's men to go to Nabal and ask for some food. But Nabal didn't want to be kind to David. He said he had never heard of him and he didn't see why he should give him anything at all. Get Nabal to look grumpy and send David's men away.

David's men went back to David and told him what Nabal had said. David was very cross! He told his men to put on their swords - they were going to fight Nabal!

One of Nabal's servants was worried about how Nabal had spoken to the messengers - he knew that there was going to be a big fight if he didn't do something so he went to see Abigail and told her everything that had happened. Abigail realised that they were in big trouble so she packed up 200 loaves of bread, 2 enormous bottles of wine, 5 roasted sheep, lots of grain, 100 cakes of raisins and 200 cakes of figs and loaded it all onto donkeys. Give Abigail the picnic basket and put her on the hobby horse. Abigail went out to meet David.

As Abigail rode along on her donkey, she came round a corner and bumped into David and his men - they were looking very fierce. (Get David's men to look fierce). Abigail got off her donkey and lay down with her face to the floor (get her to do this). She said to David, "Don't pay any attention to that silly Nabal. Don't get into a big fight - he's just not worth it. Please accept all this food I have brought for you and your men."

David was very glad that Abigail had come. He didn't really want to get into a fight, so he took the food and he and his men went back to the desert. When Abigail got home, she told Nabal what had happened and he was so cross and shocked that he fell down dead - just like that. Get Nabal to act this out! When David heard that Nabal was dead, he sent a message to Abigail asking him to marry her - and she did.

Ask the children why Abigail was so important in the story. Say she stopped there being a big fight - she made peace. Say that God designed us to be people who bring peace to situations too. Ask the children how they might bring peace to people. (You will need to make suggestions here. For instance, if a brother or sister is complaining about tidying up the room, you could offer to help.)

The Point: To show how Abigail made peace.

EQUIPMENT

A picnic basket or similar with a loaf of bread, cartons of ribena, boxes of raisins, a hobby horse (you can make one by drawing a horse's head on two pieces of card and sandwiching them over the brush part of a sweeping brush).

DURATION: 10 MINS.

GETTING DRESSED

ILLUSTRATIONS |  STORY TIME

Ask the children what are some of the things that God made us to be? Say that one of things God made us to be is people who bring peace. What does peace mean? Say that being peaceful can mean being quiet and calm or it can mean not fighting with other people - or stopping other people fighting with one another.

Say that God gives us some special tools to help us be all that he has made us to be. Today we are going to think about God's armour. Ask for a volunteer.

First of all, put the belt on the volunteer. Say that the belt is God's truth - it's us remembering that God is really big and really strong and that he loves us.

Now put on the vest. Say that soldiers wear a breastplate to protect all the important bits inside. What important things are inside our chest? Say that God wants to protect our hearts and our lives so he sent Jesus.

Now put on the wellies. Say that God wants us to be ready to go and do what he asks us and to show people how to be peaceful with one another and be friends with God.

Give the child the shield and say that God wants us to be sure of who he is - even if other people say we

are wrong. Give them the hat or helmet and say that God wants to protect all our thoughts so that we don't get scared or anxious but remember who he is.

Finally give them the sword and say that God wants us to remember what it says in the Bible so that we have good answers for people who want to argue with us.

Ask the children which bit of the armour talks about peace. It's the wellies. Ask what happens when they walk in snow or mud or when they walk in a puddle and then onto dry ground. They leave footprints! Say that when we help people to be peaceful with one another, we leave imaginary footprints in their lives because we make a difference.

Who do they fight with? Who fights with one another that they see? How can they help themselves and other people to stop fighting and be peaceful?

Pause and pray that the children would bring peace wherever they go.

The Point: To think about how we bring peace.

EQUIPMENT

A belt, vest or waistcoat, wellies, a shield, helmet or hat and sword.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

BRINGER OF PEACE

ILLUSTRATIONS |  WATCHER |  STORY TIME

[Download activity worksheet](#)

Ask the children to sit around the edge of a blanket or in a square on the floor. You are going to use the masking tape as you talk to create a picture (see attachment).

Tell the children that in the beginning God created people to love. We were supposed to be friends with God and be with him forever but people decided they knew better than God and started to fight with him. Ask the children what happens when you fight with someone? You get further apart - you don't want to play together anymore. Tape the two boxes on the floor or blanket - one on the left and one on the right. Say that it's like people are in the left hand box and God is in the right and there's a gap in between.

Ask the children how they think we can be friends with God. For every suggestion, tape a line that goes part of the way to the other side of the gap but that doesn't get there. Make a big thing of the line not being long enough. If they are not sure, suggest things like going to church, reading the Bible, praying, being nice to people, giving money to poor people, doing what mum tells them. If you have lots of space, make the two boxes a long way apart and let the children try to jump across as you talk about these things. Make sure they can't, though!

Say that nothing we can do lets us get back across the gap to be with God. Say that God only knew one

way to bring us back together with him and make peace and that was to send Jesus as a baby. Tape in the cross. Say that later on Jesus died on the cross and came back to life to show that we can have peace - or be friends - with God forever.

Let the children walk across the cross from side to side if they want to. Say that because God has made peace with us, he wants us to help other people make peace with one another and tell them that Jesus can make peace between them and God. Ask how we can do those two things.

The Point: To think about how there is peace between us and God because of Jesus.

EQUIPMENT

Masking tape, suitable floor or large blanket.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

PEACE LEAVES

DISPLAY PICTURE |  **WATCHER** |  **GET CREATIVE**

Let the children cut out a leaf and help them to write peace on them - or get the adults to. Add them to your tree display.

The Point: To build a series reminder.

EQUIPMENT

Paper in leaf colours, scissors, pens.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

PEACE FOOTPRINTS

DISPLAY PICTURE |  **GET CREATIVE**

As a follow on from the idea that we leave imaginary peaceful footprints wherever we go (Getting Dressed activity), help the children to add their footprints to the sheet. Be careful as paint can be slippery - doing this on a fabric sheet helps a bit. Make sure the children don't leave the area with painty feet... Spreading the paint on ice cream tub lids helps the children to easily coat their feet.

The Point: A teaching reminder.

EQUIPMENT

Large sheet, paint, lids of ice cream tubs, washing facilities.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

RAISIN CAKES

FOOD AND COOKING | 🍴 **GET CREATIVE**

Before the session, cut circles out of the pastry using a saucer as a guide. Be sure to keep the pastry circles covered or they will dry out.

Give each child a pastry circle and let them put a handful of sultanas on one half of it before they fold it over to make a semi-circle, pressing the edges together to enclose the sultanas. You may need to dip a finger in water and run it round half of the circle so that the edges seal well.

Dip and finger in water and put water over the top surface of the semi-circle - not too much or it will be very soggy! Sprinkle sugar over the water. Bake in the oven according to the instructions on the pastry packet, or send home with baking instructions.

The Point: A take home reminder of the story.

EQUIPMENT

Ready rolled pastry - either puff or shortcrust, sultanas, sugar, saucer, knife.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

GOD'S ARMOUR

CRAFT IDEAS | 📄 **WATCHER** | 🍴 **GET CREATIVE**

📄 [Download activity worksheet](#)

Let the children create their own version of the armour of God either by collaging or colouring.

The Point: A take home reminder.

EQUIPMENT

The attachment, either lots of different pieces of paper (colours & textures) and scissors and glue, or coloured pens and pencils.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

PEOPLE OF PEACE

WORSHIP AND REFLECTION |  WATCHER |  GET CREATIVE

[🔗 Download activity worksheet](#)

This activity is intended for parents/carers (see leader's notes).

Allow the adults some time and space to reflect on the attachment.

The Point: To respond to God.

EQUIPMENT

The attachment, pens.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

SMALL WORLD

ACTIVITY |  REVISITING THE STORY

Let the children play with the small world toys again - they may now be thinking about situations of conflict and peace.

The Point: To revisit the story or teaching.

EQUIPMENT

Small world toys including people.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

DRESS UP!

ACTIVITY |  REVISITING THE STORY

Let the children dress up again. If you did the armour of God activity, include those clothes too.

The Point: To revisit the story.

EQUIPMENT

Dressing up clothes.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

LINES WITH PURPOSE

CRAFT IDEAS |  **REVISITING THE STORY**

Make the craft available again. If you did the Bringer of Peace activity, the children may choose to create their own version of the taped-out picture. If you didn't do this activity, you could provide paper and colouring pens/pencils for them to do a picture of either the story or the armour.

The Point: To revisit the story.

EQUIPMENT

A4 paper, strips of different coloured paper, glue sticks.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

PEACE LEAVES

ACTIVITY |  **WATCHER** |  **TIME TO GO HOME**

 [Download activity worksheet](#)

This activity adds to those in previous weeks. Have the sheet with the instructions for making the tree available for those who missed the first session. Give everyone a peace leaf to take home, cut out and colour and put on their tree.

The Point: A take home activity.

EQUIPMENT

The attachment - one leaf per child.

DURATION: 5 MINS.
