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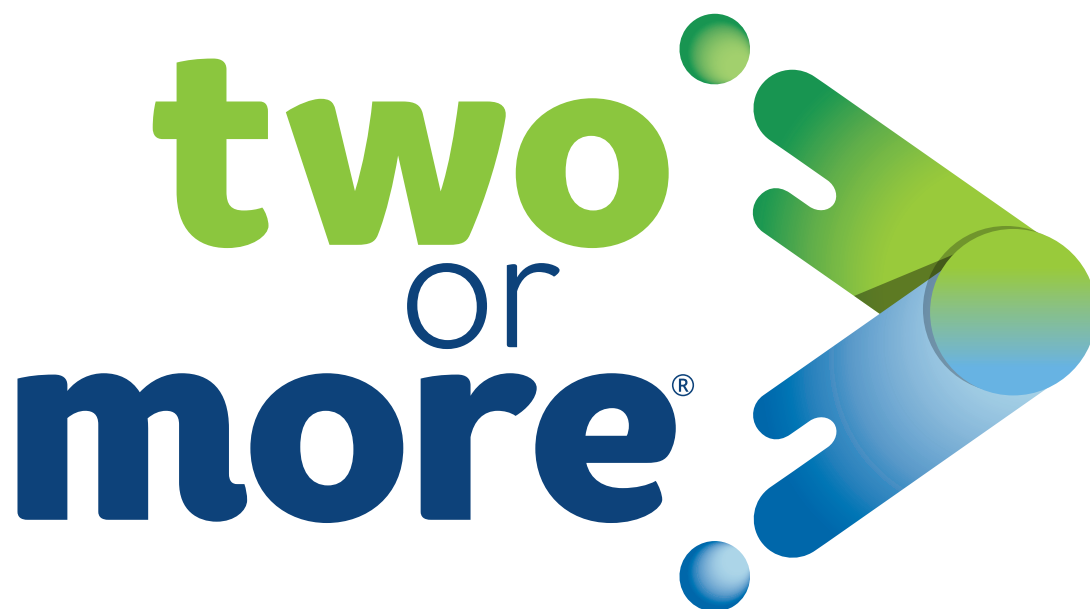
two or more[®]

Small Church Curriculum for Kids[®]

LEADER GUIDE



All Kids Together Ages 3-12



Small Church Curriculum for Kids®

Leader Guide

All Kids Together



Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:

Relational	Experiential	Applicable	Lifelong
Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.	What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.	The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.	Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

Two or More®

Small Church Curriculum for Kids®

All Kids Together

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Contents

Quarter 4

WELCOME

Intro	Welcome to Two or More.....	4
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THEME: Our Best for God

Lesson 1	Abigail Makes Peace	7
Lesson 2	Nehemiah Builds the Wall	19
Lesson 3	Waiting for the Messiah	31
Lesson 4	Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler	43

THEME: Jesus' Mission

Lesson 5	Jesus Is the Vine	55
Lesson 6	Jesus Commits to God's Will.....	67
Lesson 7	Jesus Forgives His Enemies	79
Lesson 8	Jesus Passes On His Power.....	91

THEME: Hope Now & Later

Lesson 9	Paul's Shipwreck.....	103
Lesson 10	God Protects Paul From a Snake.....	115
Lesson 11	God's Armor Gives Us Strength	127
Lesson 12	Jesus Is Selfless.....	139
Lesson 13	Forever in Heaven	151



We're Spot and Dot, and we're going to help you as you lead kids through these Bible lessons.

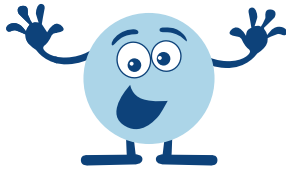


Is Christmas or Easter coming up? You can access your free digital holiday lessons in the Digital Download Center. If you want a printed copy, order one online at group.com.

Welcome

WELCOME TO TWO OR MORE

The children's curriculum specially designed for small churches!



Small Churches Rock!

We see you, small churches. And we love you!

For too long, you've had to adapt curriculums that are geared for big groups of kids or that felt like big productions—when you have totally different needs and strengths.

And that's why we created Two or More—to help you shine!

With Two or More, you can rest assured that every lesson is designed just for you. Every lesson will...

- be simply laid out and easy to follow—easy to glance at quickly to maintain eye contact with kids
- be geared for smaller, mixed-age groups of kids
- help you capitalize on your greatest strength: your ability to foster relationships

...all while helping kids know Jesus and build lifelong faith!

Here's a fact: One of the greatest emotional needs kids have is to feel *seen*, *known*, and *loved*. To have that sense of “I belong here” and “people would notice if I weren't here.”

Those needs can be hard for big churches to fill. It takes a lot of intentionality for big churches to create small groups and make every child feel like he or she has a place.

But for you? That's your greatest strength! When you have only a few kids, you can't help but connect with them! Every child who comes into your church is seen, known, and loved.

Maybe you've thought that unless you grow in number, your efforts are of limited value—like teaching only a few kids isn't really making a big impact. But consider this: Jesus loved small. Sure, he taught big crowds. But he really invested his time in a relationship with 12 followers. And even among them, he had three he mentored even more closely.

When a boy brought Jesus a small offering of fish and bread, Jesus made it work. When Jesus saw a mustard seed, he said *that's* what faith should be like. When one sheep went missing, he noticed—and cared a lot.

Jesus can do a lot with small.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You may be wondering...can I really teach effectively when I have 3-year-olds and 12-year-olds in the same class?

Yes!

Two or More ensures that every lesson will be impactful to a child of any age.

Here are the ingredients of our secret sauce to ensure kids across age ranges are impacted:

- **Mentoring.** Older kids help younger kids, giving older kids a leadership role and responsibility.
- **Adaptability.** We've provided tips if you need to skew for a mostly younger or mostly older group.
- **Movement.** Because kids are moving, they're engaged—and kids of all ages need to move.
- **Authenticity.** You'll find thought-provoking, personal questions that don't ask kids to recite facts or knowledge.
- **Simplicity.** Kids learn *one* easy-to-remember Bible point each week.
- **YOU.** Because you're there, loving every one of them, kids will walk away feeling seen, known, and loved.

Plus, you'll find that while each quarter of Two or More includes bite-size themes, you'll work through the Bible, both Old and New Testament, every year! This approach helps you give a strategic, thoughtful faith foundation to kids in your ministry.

We've curated the most small-church-friendly parts of Dig In curriculum, adapted it just for you, and designed it in a glanceable layout that you're sure to love.

TWO OR MORE LESSONS

So, what can you expect as you dive into Two or More?

Check In

This section was designed to really hone in on the small church's ability to see and know kids. Each week, there's a general question about how kids are doing—a chance for them to share openly. And because you only have a few kids, there's time for *everyone* to share.



Set the Stage

To set the stage, you'll ask a more fun, imaginative question that helps kids gear up for the day's Bible point or story.

Experience the Bible

Kids won't sit passively and listen to you tell a Bible story. The Bible comes to life in an experiential way! With simple, effective experiences, kids get to unpack what happened in the Bible...and why that matters today.

Hands-On Discovery

We surveyed small churches and found that most of you *love* to do crafts or science experiments. In Hands-On Discovery, kids get their hands busy and make exciting crafts or see how science can point us to God. But these crafts and object lessons aren't merely busy work—they're intentional experiences geared toward discovery and life application.

Play a Game

Yes, you can play games! Even with mixed ages. Even with only two kids. You'll never see a game in Two or More that requires you to break into teams...because we know your small group may *be* a team! But we also know that kids love to play *with you*. So, no matter how many kids you have, join in the fun to help build relationships! Plus, every game wraps up with questions that help kids make a connection to the Bible point.

Activity Pages With a Purpose

Coloring sheets and puzzles are nothing new in children's ministry. But *these* puzzles are! That's because these aren't time-fillers to set out and keep kids quiet. Each puzzle is an experience that...you guessed it...leads to discovery. And because you have mixed ages, you'll find a puzzle option and a coloring option that appeals to whatever skill level kids have.

Pray Together

Of course, prayer is important! And this section models that by helping kids get involved in praying, rather than simply hearing their teacher pray. With your smaller group, it's a great chance to give *every child* a turn to pray.

BONUS: Explore More

We know that some churches are pressed for time, and may not even be able to use all the experiences above! But we also know that sometimes, you have more than an hour to teach, and we want to make sure every moment counts. Your time with kids is limited and precious, so don't rely on disconnected games and activities to "fill time." Instead, use this intentional experience that furthers kids' exploration of the Bible point.

BONUS: Sing Together

We know that some small churches have kids in "big church" for worship, and others don't. So if you need to incorporate worship music in your lesson, we've got you covered with all-included downloadable music videos and audio tracks in the Digital Download Center. Need a DVD? The Best of Dig In DVD, available at group.com, has all the same great songs you'll find online!

Don't feel like you have to do *all* the options. With Two or More's one-point learning, you're guaranteed to cover the point of the lesson, no matter how far you get!



Abigail Makes Peace

1 Samuel 25:1-38

1

Lesson



Teacher Background

What Happens: David and his group of helpers need food, so they ask a rich man named Nabal to share. Nabal is angry they asked, and David is angry Nabal won't share. But Nabal's wife, Abigail, steps in to make peace. She prepares plenty of food, takes it to David, and apologizes. David is thankful for her peacemaking.

Why It Matters: Peacemaking is an important skill for kids to learn, as their empathy skills are taking shape. This lesson will help them consider things from others' perspectives so they can better make peace.

Think About: What's the worst argument you remember having with a friend or sibling when you were young? What was the end result?

Pray for kids to make peace with each other in your ministry—and outside of it.



Point

With God's help, we make peace.



Key Verse

"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."

Colossians 3:12

QUICK TIP

Demonstrate good peacemaking skills with your kids by acknowledging and apologizing for your own shortcomings. Did you lose your patience and snap at a child? Apologize. Did you give someone a timeout, only to realize you misunderstood what happened? Apologize. Your example won't make kids think less of you, but it will show them good peacemaking skills.

This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER
CHECK IN Connect about the week.	The importance of friendships at church.
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Hold angry faces.	How holding on to anger hurts us.
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Create a drawing that requires seeing both sides, or create shoes to practice lacing.	How to see things from other people's point of view.
PLAY A GAME Play tug-of-war.	How arguments feel like tug-of-war.
ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE Change words to make "peace."	How to make small steps toward peace.
PRAY TOGETHER Pray for each other.	Friends can pray for our peace.

BONUS OPTIONS	EXPLORE MORE Hear Romans 12:18 and have thumb wars.	We can be peaceful even when we lose.
	SING TOGETHER Sing worship songs together.	How to celebrate God.

	MINUTES	EASY SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
	5		
	5		
	10	☐ Bible	
	10	For Older Kids: ☐ paper ☐ permanent markers ☐ pencils For Younger Kids: ☐ 4½x12-inch construction paper (2 per child) ☐ washable markers ☐ scissors ☐ hole punches ☐ 3-foot pieces of yarn (2 per child) ☐ transparent tape	☐ Make a sample of each craft.
	10	☐ pool noodles (1 for every 2 kids) ☐ painter's tape ☐ music player (optional) ☐ upbeat music (optional)	☐ Make a tape line down the center of your room.
	10	☐ "Abigail Makes Peace" Activity Page (page 15) ☐ pencils	
	5		

	10	☐ Bible	
	10	☐ worship music ☐ media player	☐ Download songs from the Digital Download Center.



CHECK IN (5 MINUTES)

- Thank kids for coming and have kids give a foot-five (a high-five with a foot) to a friend.
- Make announcements and collect offering.
- Celebrate any birthdays by having kids give the birthday child a fist bump with fireworks. (Don't know what this means? Ask your kids!)

ASK: What do you want to tell everyone today? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share! For groups of more than six, have kids share in pairs so everyone has a turn to talk.



SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: One thing that can make us sad is arguments with friends or family. Today we'll discover that ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.** Let's talk about arguments we've been in where we needed peace!

ASK: Tell about an argument you've gotten into. Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: Arguments happen, but let's explore how we make peace. We'll learn from two men who were very angry—and one woman who made peace. Listen to their story.



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible

STAY ANGRY



Read 1 Samuel 25:2-3. Nabal's name is pronounced NAY-bull.

SAY: So we have one of our guys: Nabal. He was known to be a mean guy! Make a mean face. Pause. The other guy was David. David lived out in the wilderness with a group of people who helped protect him. But David needed food for himself and his army.

David's men had been kind to Nabal's workers, so he thought now Nabal could show him some kindness. So David sent word to Nabal and asked for food.

Here's what Nabal said.



Read 1 Samuel 25:10-11 with lots of expression.

ASK: Use one word to tell how you'd feel if someone responded that way to you.

SAY: Well, that response made David so angry! Make an angry face. Pause.

Hold that angry face until I say to stop.

David was so mad that he told his army to get their swords. He said they'd kill Nabal! Meanwhile, Nabal was still mad, too! So keep on making that



angry face! Nabal's wife, Abigail, found out what was going on. Listen to how she responded.



Read 1 Samuel 25:18-19.

SAY: So Abigail headed out to meet David, with plenty of food for his hungry army. David was still very angry, so keep on making that angry face! Nod at me if you're starting to feel a little uncomfortable. Pause.

Well, let's see if Abigail can help David lose his angry face.



Read 1 Samuel 25:23-25.

SAY: As Abigail continued, she talked David out of killing Nabal! David was no longer mad, so you can stop holding that angry face. Pause. Let kids massage their faces if they want to.

ASK: How did it feel to hold an angry face for so long?

ASK: How is that like holding on to actually being angry?

SAY: Holding on to anger often hurts us more than it hurts the people we're mad at. But Abigail apologized and was kind even though she wasn't the one who'd been wrong.

Even if we don't feel like we were the wrong one, ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.** She was able to calm David down and stop his anger.

Nabal, on the other hand...well...



Read 1 Samuel 25:37.

SAY: Make an angry face again. Pause. Nabal couldn't let go of his anger, and it caused medical problems. Not long after that, he died! Staying angry can really hurt us! Instead, ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.**

Kids can relax their faces.

Quick Tip

This is a thinking question; allow ample time for kids to process and make discoveries.

DISCUSS

SAY: Let's think about those angry faces we held for so long.

ASK: Tell about a time you were angry for a long time.

ASK: What are some things you've done to show you're mad at someone? Give a personal example, such as ignoring someone.

ASK: How might it feel to do that day after day after day?

SAY: Sometimes we want to stay angry to punish the person who hurt us. But usually, we're only hurting ourselves. So ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.** Let's try something.

Make an angry face, and think about something you're mad about or have been mad about. Hold that face until I finish praying. Allow a minute or so for kids to think.

PRAY: God, help us let go of our anger and make peace. In Jesus' name, amen.



SUPPLIES

For Older Kids:

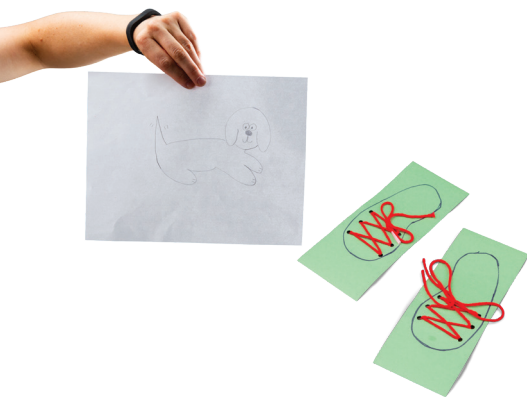
- paper
- permanent markers
- pencils

For Younger Kids:

- 4½x12-inch pieces of construction paper (2 per child)
- washable markers
- scissors
- hole punches
- 3-foot pieces of yarn (2 per child)
- transparent tape

EASY PREP

- Make a sample of each craft.



Quick Tip

It's OK if some kids don't yet know how to lace or tie shoes; this is great practice.



Celebrate Small

Having two craft options because of your age span is actually a wonderful blessing! Kids can choose which best fits their skills and interests.

OLDER KIDS: MAKE PERSPECTIVE PAPERS

SAY: Sometimes when we make peace, it means we need to see the other person's side. Our craft will explore that.

Show kids your sample craft by setting it down on a table and asking them what they see. Then hold it up to a light and ask them what they see. Set out the supplies, and have kids follow these directions to make their own Perspective Papers.

- On one piece of paper, draw anything you want using a permanent marker.
- Flip that paper over and trace the marker lines on the back.
- Next, put another piece of paper over the top of the picture and use pencil to lightly trace only some parts of the picture.
- Finally, flip the marker picture over, then flip the pencil paper over on top of the marker picture. Lightly trace other parts of the picture that you didn't trace the first time, also using pencil.
- Hold the pencil picture up to the light to make sure that between the two sides, you got all the parts of the picture.
- Lay the pencil picture flat on the table to see how incomplete it looks when you can see only one side.

YOUNGER KIDS: MAKE SHOES

SAY: We're learning how ➡ with God's help, we make peace. One important way to make peace is to think about how the other person is feeling. Some people call that "putting yourself in someone else's shoes."

Set out the supplies to share. Follow these directions to help kids make their own lacing shoes.

- Kids use markers to trace each of their feet (with shoes on) on a half sheet of construction paper. (Older kids or leaders can help.)
- Each child trades their set of feet with another child.
- Kids punch holes near the sides of the feet.
- Kids practice lacing the shoes by threading yarn between the holes.
- If needed, wrap tape around the ends of the yarn so it doesn't fray.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: What's wrong with looking at only your own side in an argument?

SAY: ➡ With God's help, we make peace. David and Nabal were each looking at only their own sides. Abigail was able to see both sides and make peace. Take your craft home to remind you to turn to God for help making peace.



PLAY TUG-OF-WAR

SAY: Sometimes peace feels hard to find. Sometimes an argument just feels like a game of tug-of-war!

- Kids form pairs, ideally with partners of similar sizes.
- Each pair gets a pool noodle.
- Each partner grabs an end and stands on one side of the tape line or the other.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music during the game.
- A partner wins when they tug their partner over the tape line.
- Continue the tournament with several rounds. If you have enough kids, they can find new partners.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: How does arguing feel like tug-of-war?

ASK: When have you felt like you won an argument? lost?

SAY: The best arguments don't end with winners or losers. They end with peace. If everyone feels like a winner, that's a good sign that you were a peacemaker! ➡ **With God's help, we make peace.**

SUPPLIES

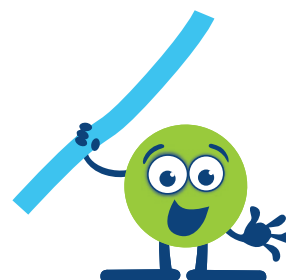
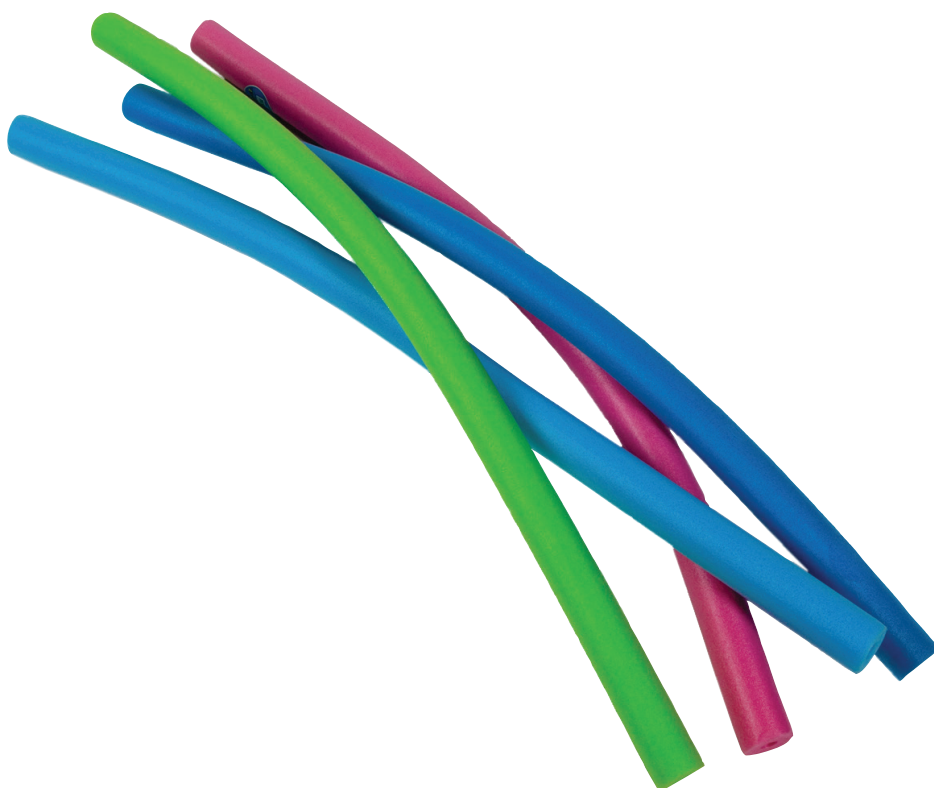
- pool noodles (1 for every 2 kids)
- painter's tape
- music player (optional)
- upbeat music (optional)

EASY PREP

- Make a tape line down the center of your room.

Quick Tip

If you don't have kids of similar sizes, that's OK! Encourage the bigger kids to go a little easy on their younger friends. If you have bigger kids who you don't think will do that, pair them with adult leaders instead to keep the little ones safe.



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A PURPOSE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- “Abigail Makes Peace” Activity Page (page15)
- “Abigail Makes Peace” Coloring Page (page16)
- pencils
- crayons

Quick Tip

For younger kids, provide the Coloring Page and crayons as an alternative.

SAY: Abigail wasn’t involved in the fight between David and Nabal, but she was a peacemaker and stopped David from doing something he’d regret.

➡ **With God’s help, we make peace, too. Let’s make peace in this puzzle.**

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will change one letter at a time to make new words until they change each word to peace. Encourage kids to work together—which is another great connection to how we make peace!

ASK: How did you know each step to take in this puzzle?

ASK: You had some clues in the puzzle to move you toward *peace*. Name some people who “clue you in” and help you make peace in real life.

ASK: Think of making peace like this puzzle—you take one step at a time. What are some steps you can take to make peace?

SAY: Sometimes you can’t solve a problem quickly. Sometimes making peace takes a lot of little steps and working *with* people instead of against them. But as God guides us each step of the way, we make peace.

ANSWER KEY: ANGER-CRANE-PECAN-PEACE; BULLY-BELLY-LABEL-CABLE-PLACE-PEACE; WRONG-OWNER-NEWER-ENTER-PETER-CREEP-PEACE



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



Celebrate Small

When you have all ages together, younger kids and older kids get to experience praying for each other! What a powerful impact that can have!

SAY: We all have situations where peace is hard. Maybe there’s someone at school who’s mean to you. Maybe your family is struggling to get along. Maybe you’re in the middle of a big argument with a friend.

- Have kids form mixed-age pairs and share with their partners about a situation where they need prayer for peace.
- Partners pray together.
- Remind kids to be respectful and keep a confidence about what their partner shared.

PRAY: God, sometimes peace is hard to find, and we need your help. In each of our lives, help us make peace. In Jesus’ name, amen.



Abigail Makes Peace

Activity Page

For each puzzle, change one letter at a time to make new words until you've completely changed the word to PEACE! You can scramble the letters as needed. Use the hints if you need help!



ANGER

_____ construction equipment that lifts things

_____ a kind of nut

PEACE

BULLY

_____ tummy

_____ a sticker that tells you what something is

_____ a wire

_____ location

PEACE

WRONG

_____ the person it belongs to

_____ not older

_____ the opposite of exit

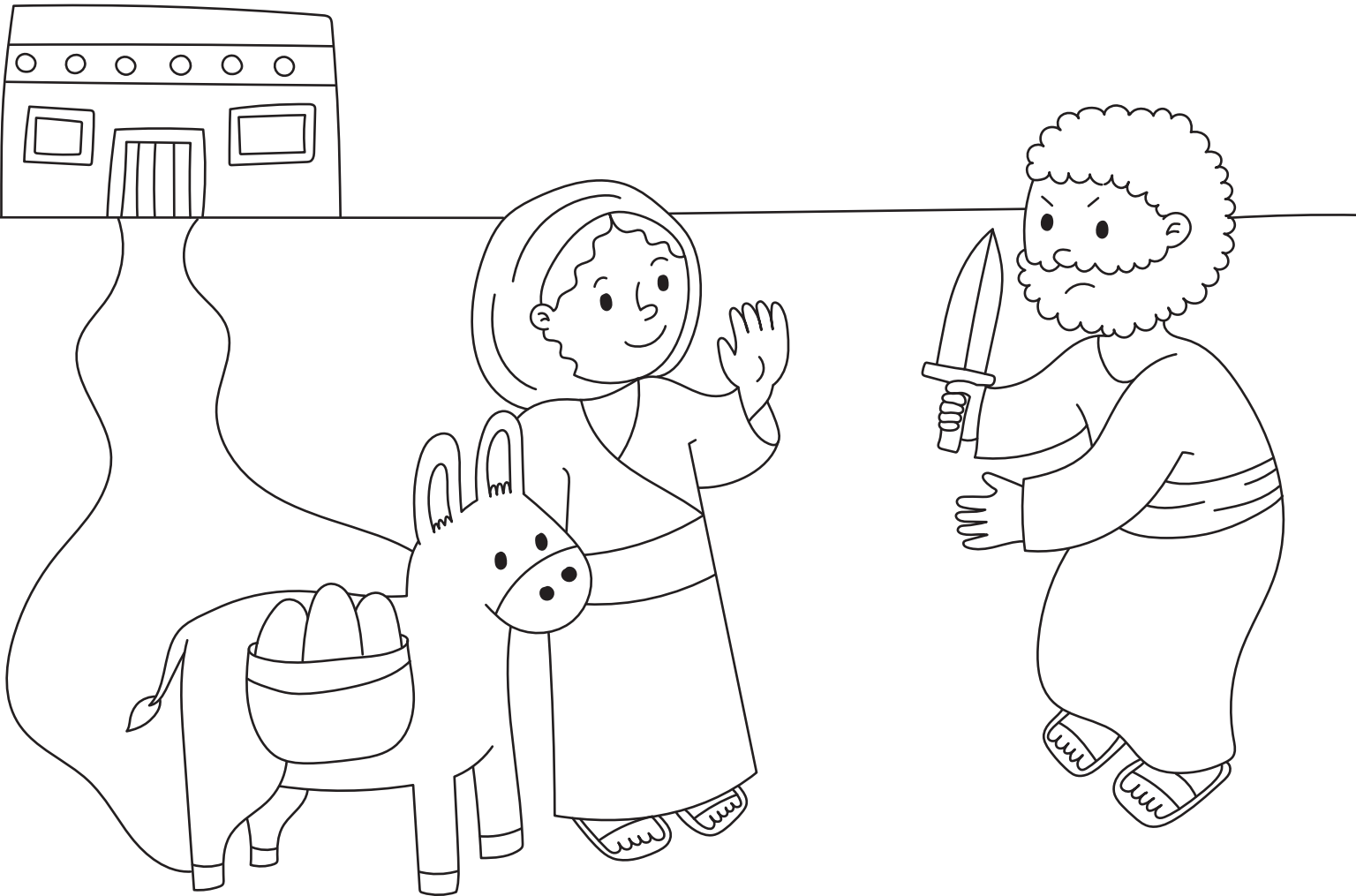
_____ one of Jesus' best friends

_____ sneak up on someone

PEACE

Abigail Makes Peace

Coloring Page



1 Samuel 25:1-38: David needed some food for himself and the people with him, so he asked a man named Nabal to share. Instead of sharing, Nabal got mad and refused. Then David got mad, too! He was on his way to hurt Nabal when Nabal's wife, Abigail, brought David some food and apologized. Abigail showed us how we make peace.



HAVE A THUMB WAR CHALLENGE

SAY: David and Nabal let their anger get the best of them. Thank goodness Abigail knew that we make peace! She stopped things from getting worse. Let's see what the Bible says we can do to make peace.



Read Romans 12:18.

SAY: The Bible also says that God made peace with us by sending his Son, Jesus. Because of Jesus, God made a way for us to be his friends again. (See Romans 5:10.) So God can help us keep the peace! Let's practice keeping the peace.

Have kids form pairs, ideally with partners of a similar size. Then have kids engage in thumb wars. No matter who wins, have partners shake hands or give a fist bump to keep the peace, even if they lost.

Play several rounds, having kids find new partners if you have enough kids to do so.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: How do you feel when someone beats you at a game or is better than you at something?

ASK: What things do people do that make you feel angry with them?

SAY: Even when people make us feel angry, ➡ with God's help, we make peace. Sometimes they might still be mean to us, and we might forgive them but spend less time with them. Or they might stay mad at us. But the Bible says to do all that you can to make peace with others. That means do the best you can to be a peacemaker!

SUPPLIES

- Bible

Quick Tip

If you don't have enough kids of a similar size, they can switch to a Rock, Paper, Scissors battle instead.



**SUPPLIES**

- worship music
- media player

EASY PREP

- Download songs from the Digital Download Center.

Sing worship songs with your kids.



Spend 13 weeks diving into these exciting topics with your small group of kids!

Our Best for God			
1	Abigail Makes Peace	1 Samuel 25:1-38	With God's help, we make peace.
2	Nehemiah Builds the Wall	Nehemiah 3:1-4:23; 6:1-16	With God's help, we do our best.
3	Waiting for the Messiah	Luke 2:25-40	With God's help, we show patience.
4	Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler	Matthew 19:16-30	We love God the most.
Jesus' Mission			
5	Jesus Is the Vine	John 15:1-17	Jesus is the vine.
6	Jesus Commits to God's Will	Matthew 26:36-46	Jesus does hard things.
7	Jesus Forgives His Enemies	Luke 23:26-43	Jesus forgives when it's hard.
8	Jesus Passes On His Power	Acts 1:6-14; 2:1-12	Jesus is powerful.
Hope Now & Later			
9	Paul's Shipwreck	Acts 27	God is encouraging.
10	God Protects Paul From a Snake	Acts 28:1-10	God is our protector.
11	God's Armor Gives Us Strength	Ephesians 6:10-18	God is strong.
12	Jesus Is Selfless	Philippians 2:1-11	Jesus is selfless.
13	Forever in Heaven	Revelation 21	Jesus is forever.

With Two or More®, you can build relationships with kids of all ages and engage in meaningful experiences whether you have two...or a few!



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