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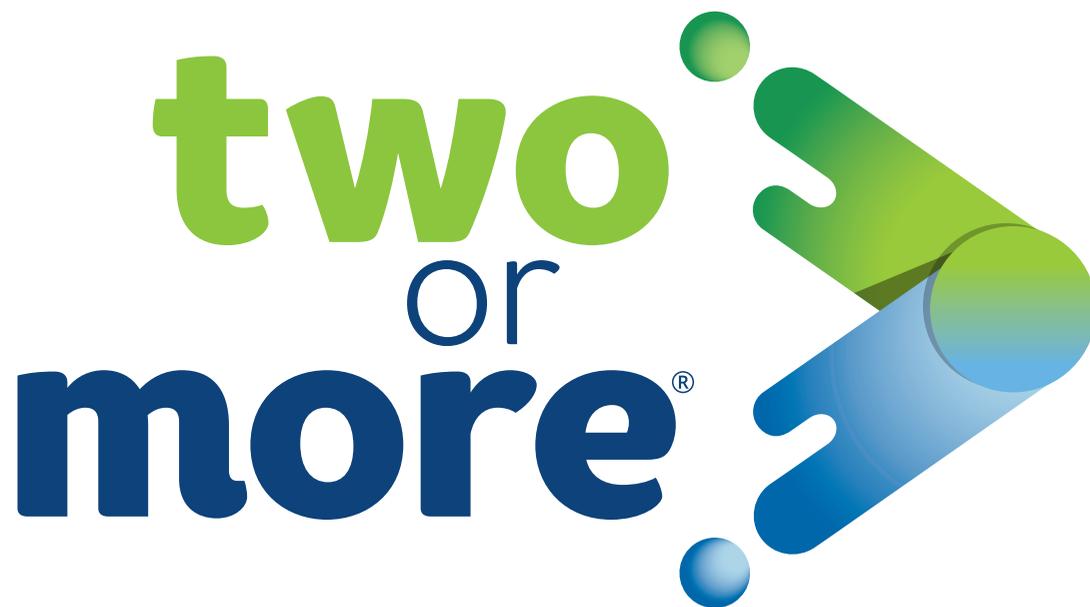
two or more[®]

Small Church Curriculum for Kids[®]

LEADER GUIDE

Only Preschoolers Ages 3-5





Small Church Curriculum for Kids®

Leader Guide
Only Preschoolers



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

Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Lifelong

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®

Only Preschoolers

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ISBN 978-1-4707-8305-1

Printed in the U.S.A.

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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 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...will this really be age-appropriate for my preschoolers?

Yes!

Two or More ensures that every lesson is simple and applicable for preschoolers.

Here are the ingredients of our secret sauce to make lessons meaningful for preschoolers:

- **Simplicity.** Kids learn one easy-to-remember Bible point each week.
- **Discussion.** We help preschoolers process discoveries and share their own stories through simple, preschool-friendly questions.
- **Application.** We make sure preschoolers know *why* the Bible story matters to them with application that makes sense in a 3-year old's world.
- **Movement.** Because kids are moving, they're engaged, and you'll keep their short attention spans.
- **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 have only 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.

Color and Create

Coloring sheets provide a visual preschoolers can enjoy and take home. These coloring sheets also include the Bible passage and a summary of what they learned, so parents can get a quick glance at what their kids are learning. Plus, some coloring sheets involve adding extra fun elements!

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! If you do use media, this is a great opportunity to involve teenagers as leaders—most teens know a lot about technology!

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

Lesson

1



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 Preschoolers sing a song to make peace.	How music can calm us down.
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Preschoolers make a wrinkled piece of paper smooth.	That God sent his Son, Jesus, to make peace.
PLAY A GAME Preschoolers play a relay race with food.	How we can make peace by sharing.
COLOR AND CREATE Color a picture of the Bible story.	What happened in the Bible story.
PRAY TOGETHER Preschoolers pray for peace.	Different times we can pray for peace.

BONUS OPTIONS	EXPLORE MORE Preschoolers play with bubbles.	How to make peace and play together well.
	SING TOGETHER Sing worship songs together.	How to celebrate God.

	MINUTES	EASY SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
	5		
	5		
	10	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible	
	10	<input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> spray bottle of water	
	10	<input type="checkbox"/> play food <input type="checkbox"/> paper plates <input type="checkbox"/> music player (optional) <input type="checkbox"/> upbeat music (optional)	
	10	<input type="checkbox"/> "Abigail Makes Peace" Coloring Page (page 15) <input type="checkbox"/> crayons	
	5		

	10	<input type="checkbox"/> bubbles <input type="checkbox"/> music and music player (optional)	
	10	<input type="checkbox"/> worship music <input type="checkbox"/> media player	<input type="checkbox"/> Download songs from the Digital Download Center.



CHECK IN (5 MINUTES)

- Thank kids for coming and have preschoolers give someone a “round” of applause by clapping in a circle in front of a friend.
- Make announcements and collect offering.
- Celebrate any birthdays by teaching preschoolers to do a “happy birthday” wave.

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: Today we’ll learn how **with God’s help, we make peace.** When we get into arguments, we need to find ways to make peace! Let’s talk about arguments.

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

SAY: We all get into arguments sometimes. But the important thing is asking God for help to make peace. Let’s find out how that worked out for Abigail in the Bible.



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible

Quick Tip

Repeating songs with preschoolers helps things stick! You’ll likely find preschoolers will remember this song and sing it at home as a reminder to make peace.

LEARN A SONG

SAY: Today we’re learning that **with God’s help, we make peace.** Let’s learn a song that will help us learn our Bible story.

Sing this song to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”

Don’t be angry; it’s OK.

Let’s all get along today.

Say we’re sorry and forgive

Because that’s God’s way to live.

Don’t be angry; it’s OK.

We’ll make peace so we can play.

Repeat the song a few times to help kids learn it.

SAY: Great job singing! We’re going to learn about a woman in the Bible named Abigail. Abigail made peace! As we learn how Abigail made peace, we’ll sing our song a few more times.

LEARN THE BIBLE STORY

SAY: In the Bible, there were two guys who didn’t get along. One guy, David, asked the other guy, Nabal, to share his food.

SAY: But Nabal didn't want to share his food! He got mad that David asked. But ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.** Let's sing our song to help Nabal do a better job making peace.

Sing the song again.

SAY: When Nabal said he wouldn't share his food, David got really mad! David said he had helped Nabal before, and now Nabal wouldn't help him! But ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.** Let's sing our song to help David do a better job making peace.

Lead kids in singing the song again.

SAY: So Nabal and David were both mad. But then Nabal's wife, Abigail, came to make peace! Abigail said she was sorry that Nabal was so rude.

And Abigail brought plenty of food to share! Abigail was a peacemaker. ➡ **With God's help, we make peace,** too. Let's sing our peacemaking song.

Lead kids in singing the song again.

SAY: Abigail did a good job making peace! David wasn't so mad anymore. He was glad she stopped him from doing something mean. Like Abigail, we make peace. Let's think about ways we can do that.

SING THE SONG FOR EVERYDAY SITUATIONS

SAY: Sometimes you might see two other kids arguing. You can help them get along. Let's sing our song to make peace.

Lead kids in singing the song again.

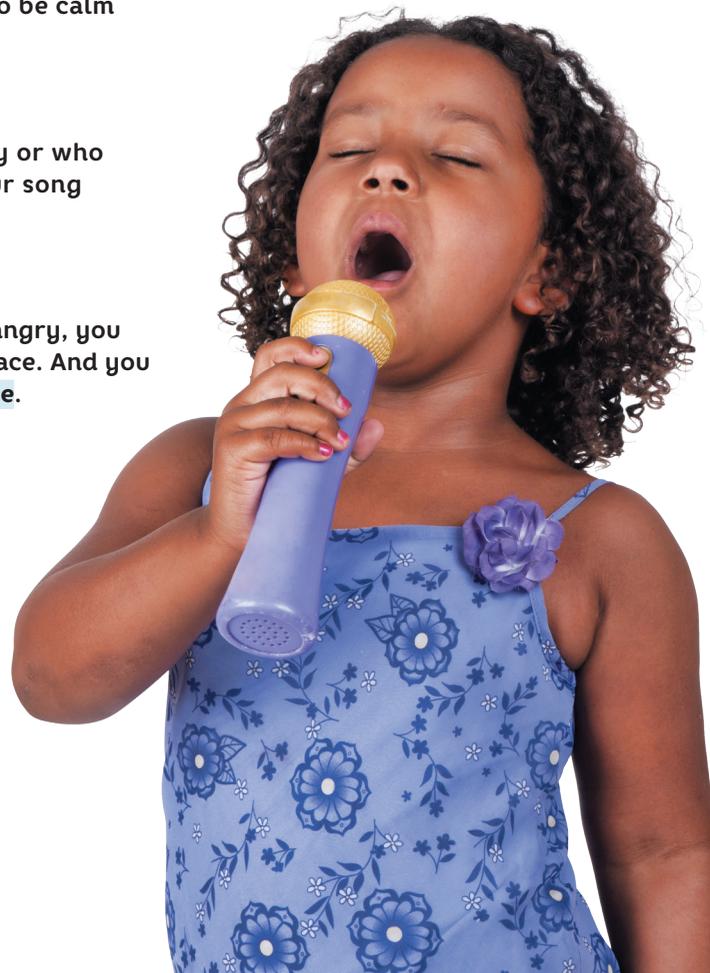
SAY: Sometimes you might be the one who gets mad! But ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.** Let's sing our song to remind ourselves to be calm and peaceful.

Lead kids in singing the song again.

SAY: Sometimes two people disagree about what game to play or who gets which toy. You can help people make peace. Let's sing our song because ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.**

Lead kids in singing the song one more time.

SAY: Whenever you see other people acting angry, or you feel angry, you can sing this song to yourself to help you know how to make peace. And you can ask God for help, because ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.**





SUPPLIES

- paper
- spray bottle of water



SMOOTH A PIECE OF PAPER

Hold up a piece of paper.

SAY: Imagine this smooth paper is like being at peace.

Crumple the paper, then uncrumple it to show it's wrinkled.

SAY: But now this paper isn't peaceful! It has all these wrinkles. Let's try to smooth it out.

- Let kids each crumple a piece of paper and then try their best to smooth it out.
- After kids have tried and seen that the wrinkles still show, use a spray bottle of water to mist their papers.
- They should be able to flatten them so the wrinkles completely disappear.

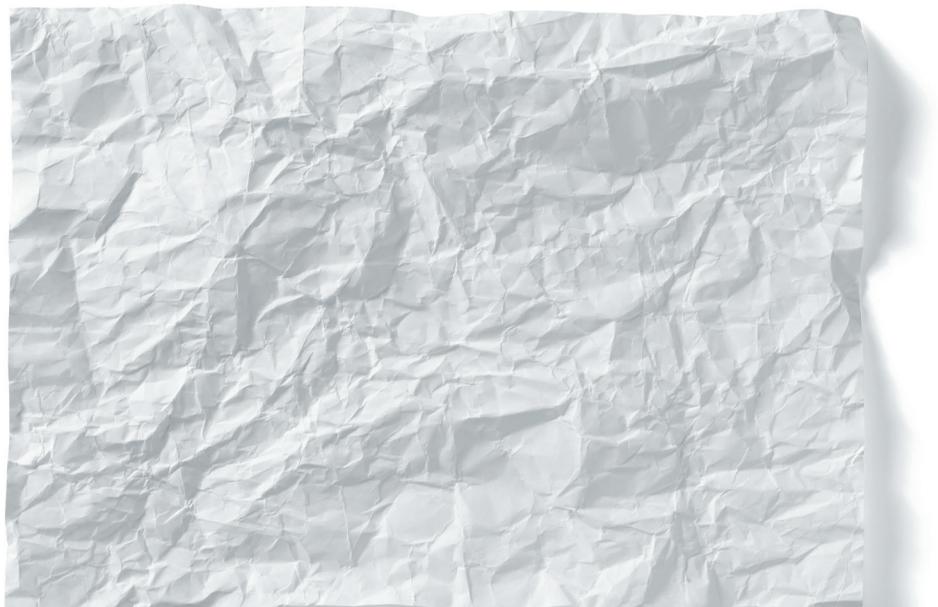
TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: What do you do to get along with others?

SAY: ➡ **With God's help, we make peace.** Even when an argument seems impossible, there's always a way to smooth things over, just like I helped you smooth out your paper.

Smoothing out that paper reminds me of how God made peace with us. The Bible says we were God's enemies! That's because sin was causing a big wrinkle in our friendship with God. But God sent his Son, Jesus, to die for us.

Jesus smoothed out our wrinkles and made us friends of God. When we follow Jesus, God helps us make peace.





RUN A RELAY RACE

SAY: ➡ **With God's help, we make peace.** When David was angry because Nabal wouldn't share his food, Abigail made peace by giving a lot of food to David. Let's see how fast we can run to give David food!

- Gather preschoolers together at one end of the room, with a pile of play food.
- Set out a plate on the other side of the room.
- Coach preschoolers on taking turns to run one piece of food at a time across the room and set it on a plate.
- If you'd like, play music while kids play.
- When all the food is on the plate, congratulate everyone for sharing food.
- Play more rounds as time allows. You can vary how kids move, such as hopping, marching, or walking sideways.

SUPPLIES

- play food
- paper plates
- music player (optional)
- upbeat music (optional)

TALK ABOUT IT

SAY: Great job sharing food with David!

ASK: What food would you like someone to share with you?

SAY: David and his group of helpers were hungry! They just wanted some food to eat, but Nabal wouldn't share. But Abigail made peace. Even if we feel mad, we can share and be kind because ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.**





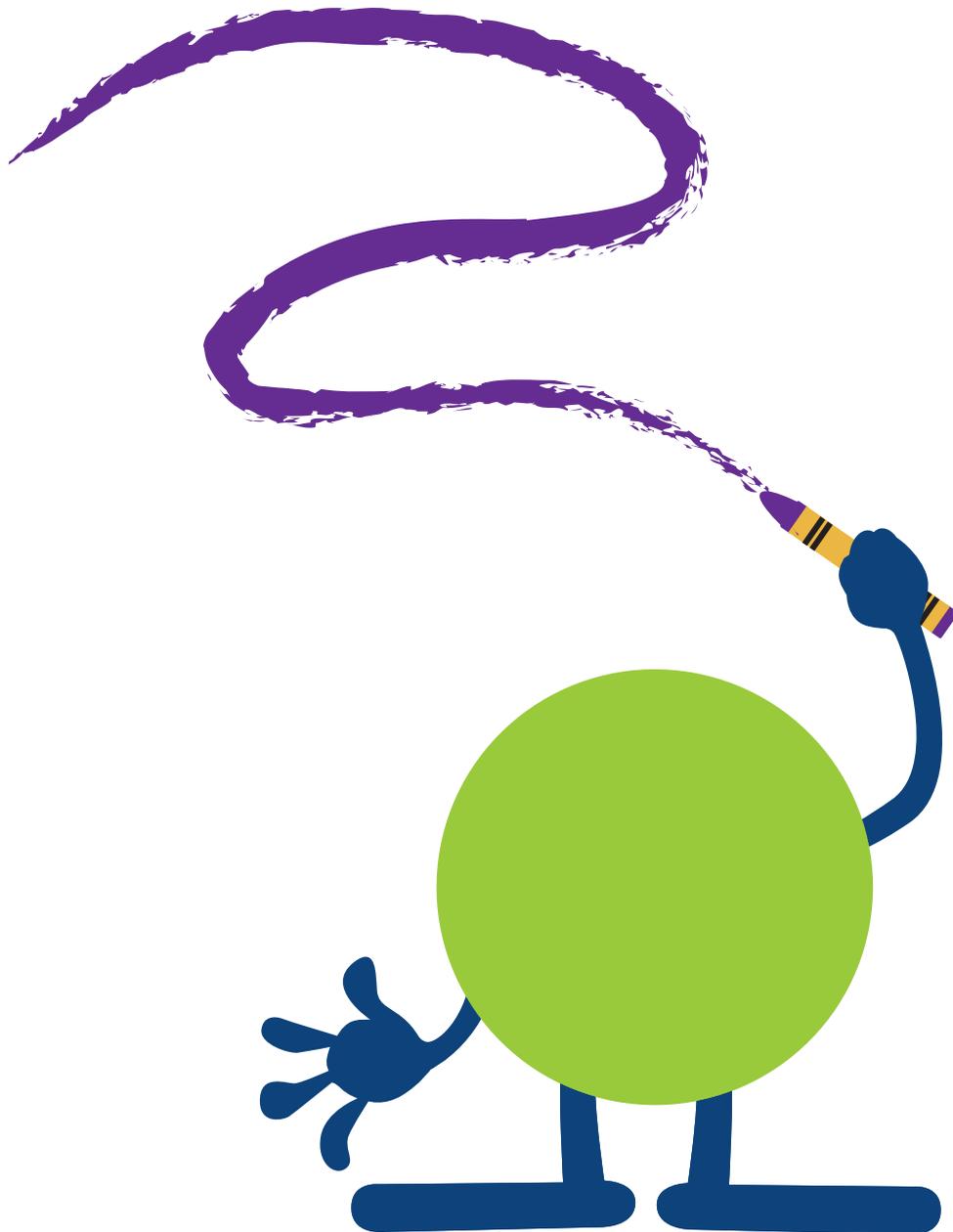
SUPPLIES

- “Abigail Makes Peace” Coloring Page (page 15)
- crayons

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons.

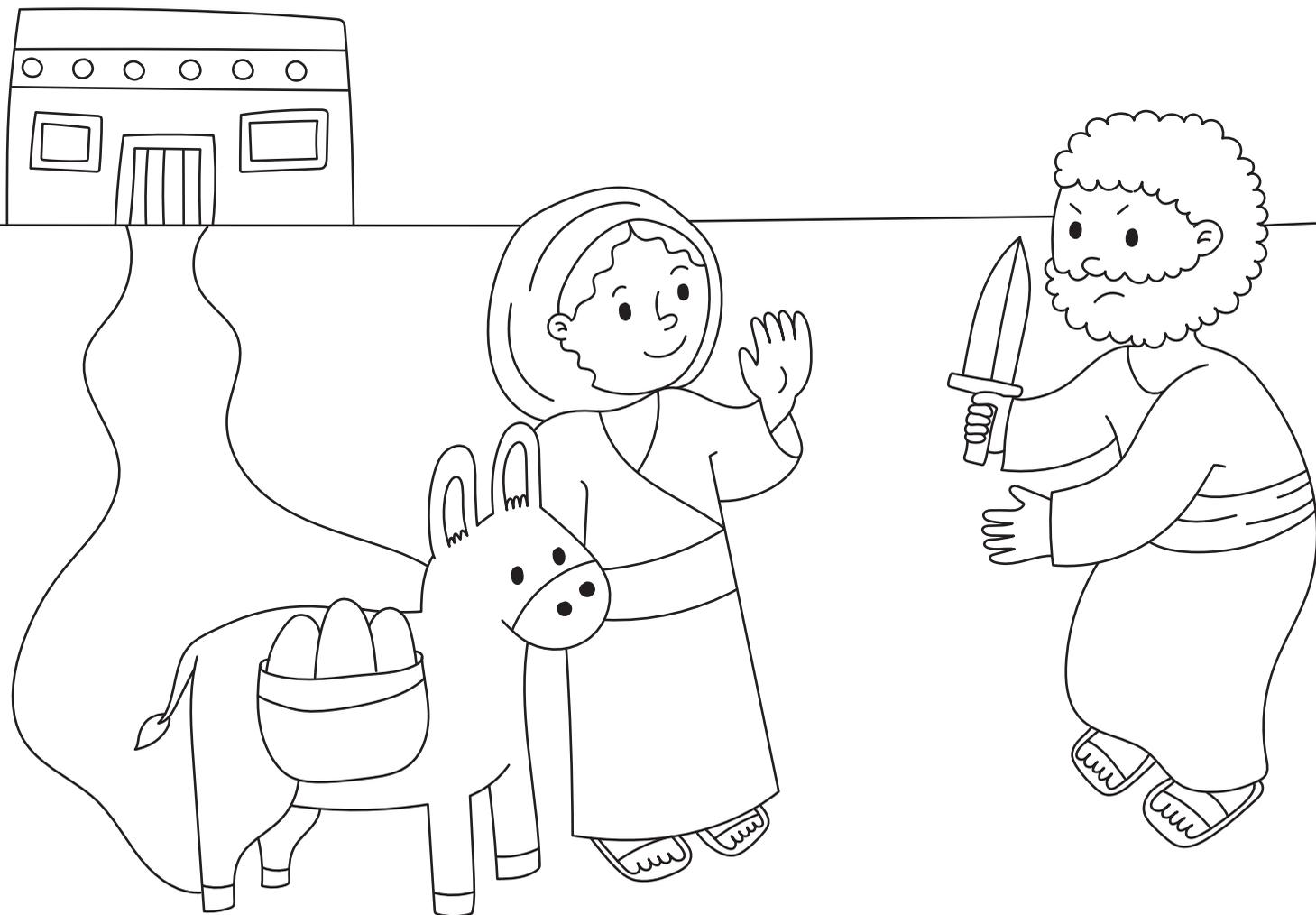
SAY: ➡ **With God’s help, we make peace, just like Abigail did! She rushed to David to stop him from hurting Nabal, and she gave him plenty of food to eat. Let’s color that picture!**

Allow time for kids to color.



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.



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



SAY: ➔ **With God's help, we make peace.** Let's pray for God's help to have peace.

Read each prayer, pausing after each one for kids to repeat after you.

PRAY: God, help me make peace when someone is angry at me.

God, help me make peace when I feel angry.

God, help there be peace in our families.

God, help there be peace with our friends.

God, help there be peace in our church.

God, help there be peace in our world. In Jesus' name, amen.





PLAY WITH BUBBLES

SAY: ➡ **With God's help, we make peace.** Nabal wouldn't share his food even though he had plenty! That made David mad. But Abigail made peace and shared food. Let's play with bubbles and do a good job sharing. We'll have plenty for everyone!

Blow bubbles and let preschoolers swat at them and pop them.

If you have upbeat music, play it during the game.

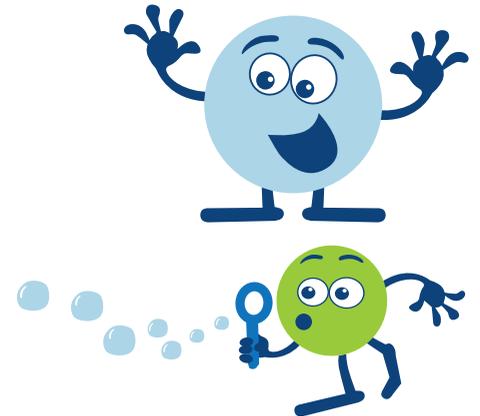
TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: Why did we all get along in this game? (If kids didn't get along, talk about why that was!)

SAY: There were plenty of bubbles, so it was easy to get along. Sometimes there's not enough for everyone. Some people might not share, and others might get mad. But no matter whether there's a lot or a little, ➡ **with God's help, we make peace.** We don't let our anger cause us to be mean...because that's not how God acts toward us!

SUPPLIES

- bubbles
- music and music player (optional)



**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 preschoolers!

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 preschoolers and engage in meaningful experiences whether you have two...or a few!



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A Ministry of Cook Media Global

group.com/TwoOrMore
800.447.1070

ISBN 978-1-4707-8305-1



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Printed in the U.S.A.

133788



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