



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Jesus Is the King  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 32

# Jesus Brings Peace on Earth to Those Who Trust Him

**Primary Scripture:** Luke 2:14

**Key Verse:** Luke 2:14b, "... peace to those who have his good will."

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Kids grow up in a violent world. From television shows to video games, violence is around them. Kids argue with friends, siblings, and parents. Especially during the Christmas season with all the excitement of new toys, possibilities are heightened for kids to argue and fight. All of this is an example of our condition of brokenness. Where is Jesus in all this? His peace in our lives heals our brokenness. Peace comes first in our lives and then spreads out to others as we practice the power of God's forgiving presence.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus purchased peace for us when he gave his life for us on the cross.

**Jesus in us:** Jesus changes our lives as he dwells within us. He cures our brokenness with his presence that gives us peace.

**Jesus through us:** Because of the change in our lives, we respond by making a difference in our world by loving and leading others to Jesus.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies:*

- *toy, such as a small stuffed animal that is easily torn in two or a toy that stretches*

Begin with this question:

**Did any of you have an argument over a toy this week?**

Take stories from the audience.

**Let's see an example of how someone might settle an argument about a toy in the *wrong* way. We are going to have a toy tug of war. May I have two volunteers?**

Have two children play tug of war with a provided toy. The best type of toy would be a small stuffed animal that is easily torn in two or a toy that stretches. Adult spotters should be ready to catch either child if they fall as the toy is torn apart. After the kids have had their tug of war, continue.

**Can you see what happens when we try to settle our differences with arguing or fighting? Things get broken. Even people get broken. But Jesus came to give us a better way.**

Read the message the angels said from Luke 2:10-14. Then ask:

**Does this Bible passage talk about peace? Does it say there will be peace on the earth? If so, then why are so many people arguing? What about the wars? Listen carefully as I read this scripture again.**

Read Luke 2:10-14 again.

**The Bible says that peace will be to those who are favored by God. In other words, God's peace will come to those who learn to trust Jesus and follow him. That doesn't mean there will never be times when there is arguing or fighting. But when people don't follow Jesus, they will have no peace.**

**Let's worship the God of peace in our songs of praise!**

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Supplies:*

- cross

Bring back the children who had a tug of war contest over a broken toy. Give them a cross. Have them each gently hold on to one arm of the cross so it hangs between them. This is a visual picture of how Jesus' love and forgiveness can bring us together and give us peace.

**Let's think about the times we have argued and fought with others. Can you think of ways that you might have hurt others by arguing over things? Did you know that not only toys get broken, but people's relationships also get broken?**

**The power of Jesus' love and sacrificial death gives us peace. Look at these two now holding the cross. When we remember how much God loved us and gave us Jesus, it heals the brokenness in our lives and even heals the broken friendships that might have happened. Let's pray that each one of us would reach out and hold fast to Jesus' love and forgiveness.**

**Dear God, we need your healing and forgiveness. Sometimes we start thinking that toys or other stuff are important. Then we forget about other people and only care about ourselves. Please forgive us. Especially forgive us when we have hurt others or have broken relationships with them. You forgive us not because we have earned it or deserved it, but because you gave us Jesus. You want us to have peace. Thank you. Let us share this peace with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

*Supplies:*

- *cross used earlier*

Place the cross just used in the offering plate. This is a picture of God's gift that brings peace to the world and us. Our offerings are a gift back to God because we now have peace with him.



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

Divide the kids into groups of eight. Have each group join hands in a circle. Then take one child from each circle out of the room for further instructions. Tell them that when they return to the room they should get inside their team circle any way possible. They will probably find a way, but not without some serious squeezing, forcing, climbing, or crawling.

Let kids take turns trying to penetrate the circle. On the last turn, while the “penetrators” are out of the room, tell the groups not to let any intruder try to physically break into their circles. However, if the child simply asks to come in, let him in. Play this final round and then have all the groups except one sit down.

Use the remaining group for a demonstration. Explain that you know a secret way. Whisper it to the child trying to enter. Tell her to simply ask politely, “Would you please let me in.”

**Often the first way we try to solve our problems is by forcing what we want on others. This can lead to fighting and conflict. God has a better way. We have peace when we know Jesus as our Savior. When we follow what he wants, God gives us answers to our problems. His way is a way of peace.**

## Bible Presentation:

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

*Supplies:*

- *video: McGee and Me: Twas the Fight Before Christmas (Focus on the Family, 1998)*
- *snacks*

The children can have a snack as they watch *McGee and Me: 'Twas the Fight Before Christmas*. This 30-minute video shows how the main character, Nick, brought a message of Christmas love and peace to a troubled friend. Jesus can give peace to heal broken people's lives.

Ask questions to summarize the video. Then ask:

**How did the message of Jesus give peace to someone's life in the movie?**



# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

**Tell how you saw the message of Jesus give peace to someone you know. Did it happen when they were really feeling broken?**

**Tell about a time you shared the message of Jesus' peace with another.**

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber:*

- toy, such as a small stuffed animal, that is easily torn in two or a toy that stretches

## *The Power of the Cross:*

- cross

## *Offering:*

- cross used earlier

## *Bible Presentation:*

- video: *McGee and Me: Twas the Fight Before Christmas* (Focus on the Family, 1998) from “Recharged #3”—order from <http://www.family.org/resources/itempg.cfm?itemid=4676>
- snacks

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