



Date: _____
Series: Godly Actions Count (Summer)
Year 4, Lesson 11

Peace in the Midst of Trouble

Primary Scripture: John 16:32-33

Key Verse: John 16:33, “I’ve told you this so that my peace will be with you. In the world you’ll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world.”

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

Kids often operate under the false assumption that if they are Christians, God will take away all their troubles. That is not true. As a matter of fact, Jesus tells us quite clearly that we will have trouble in this world. However, what we also receive from him is peace in the midst of trouble. Kids need to know that even though their lives may at times be filled with trouble or turmoil, they can still have a calming peace within because of the security that is theirs in knowing Jesus as their Savior. Kids need to know how to call upon the Lord for this kind of peace, even before times of trouble occur.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ who gave his life for us.

Jesus in us: Through the powerful indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we have the peace that comes from Christ deep in our souls.

Jesus through us: Displaying peace in a restless and troubled world is a winsome witness to people. Jesus works through that peace to attract others to himself.

Lesson 11 - 1

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 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

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

Supplies needed: a sheet (e.g. flat sheet for a twin bed), several soft balls or other soft objects to be bounced on the sheet, a large cross made from 2' x 4's

Invite four volunteers forward and give them each a corner of the sheet. Have them pull it tight and make waves to bounce balls. At first, their "waves" should be only about six inches so the balls lightly bounce.

Throw the balls onto the sheet one at a time as you begin talking about the busy activities in our lives. Say:

See how this sheet is making waves up and down? We will call these trouble waves. These trouble waves remind me of all the activity that we have in our lives. There are so many things we do that keep us busy. We like to play but we also have chores. There may be clubs and activities to which we go. There might be special school activities or times we spend with our friends.

These balls are called worry balls. Do you see what happens when we put them into a busy world? They begin to bounce.

Now let's see what happens when the world around us causes even bigger problems. Those of you holding the sheet, let's make the trouble waves even bigger! Think of what happens when you get sick or hurt. Or maybe we have trouble in our family or we have problems

with a friend. When these things happen, it looks like these worry balls! They bounce all over!

Trouble waves sometimes start out small, and then later they can become bigger. When trouble waves happen around us, we feel like we need to worry about them. Then the worrying can get out of control, just like some of these balls that are jumping off the sheet!

Today we will discover what Jesus says in the Bible, *“In the world you’ll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world.”*

Let’s put this large cross on the sheet and watch what happens. Look at that! The balls roll towards the middle and don’t bounce around as much! Though troubled times can still happen, we have the presence of Jesus in the middle of our lives, and we can be calm. In other words, things might be troubling on the outside, but we don’t have to be worried on the inside. We know that Jesus gave his life for us, and Jesus is the light. Jesus will be with us wherever we go. Let’s worship him today.

Have the children lay the sheet down on the floor and set the cross aside.

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 needed: same as for the Attention Grabber

Call the volunteers back to the front again and have them begin large wave motions. This time, as you throw the balls in one at a time, let them bounce off completely.

There are certain kinds of trouble that we can have that are very sad. Think of something very bad that you have done that troubles you in your heart. In other words, you know that you are guilty for something and you are ashamed of what you have done.

Allow plenty of time for kids to really think about this.

When you think about what you have done wrong, you might feel the waves inside. You might feel as troubled as the balls bouncing all the way off of this sheet. In some ways, this may be true because the Bible says that when we sin, we are separated from God. Our sin can

cause us to be bounced out of bounds. However, no matter what we do, God doesn't bounce us away.

When we feel like we are out there, God invites us back. He doesn't want us to be separated from him. He wants to be close to us. But how do we get back onto this sheet and close to the cross when our sin causes us to feel like we have bounced out?

Allow children to answer.

In Romans 5:1, the Bible says, *"Now that we have God's approval by faith, we have peace with God because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done."*

So the reason we can have peace with God is because of what Jesus has done. He died on the cross for us to take away our sin. If we believe that, then we have God's approval. We are picked up off the floor and put right back here on the sheet next to the cross. Let's do that now.

Put the cross back in the middle of the sheet and set the balls back on the sheet.

Notice how all of these worry balls aren't bouncing all over anymore. They are hanging onto Jesus just like we can do. If you believe that Jesus gave his life for you, you are just like one of these balls being put back onto the sheet. It will roll and touch the cross.

Touching the cross reminds us of believing that Jesus didn't just die for the sins of the whole world, but he died for each one of us. And though everything around you might be wavy and full of storms and troubles, Jesus is the one who gives us peace inside.

Dismiss the volunteers.

Let's pray.

Dear Father, thank you for sending Jesus. Sometimes so many things that happen around us trouble us, but worst of all, we are troubled by our own actions against your will. Please forgive us. Help us to do only what you want. And now give us peace because of Jesus. In his 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 needed: cross from the Attention Grabber

Place an offering bucket on the cross lying on the floor. Explain the current mission project.



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.

“Abominable Snowman Tag”

Option 1:

Supplies needed: masking tape, several winter hats, scarves, or mittens (optional)

In advance, use masking tape to mark a starting line along one side of the room and a finishing line along the other side, both about three feet away from the walls. In one section of the room, make a circle for the ice cave.

Say:

Kids, today you have a challenge. Your challenge is to cross from this line to the other side over this frozen popsicle lake. Yes, can you tell? It’s frozen all right! It’s kind of like crossing through a troubled time. The greatest challenge is that there is an abominable snowman that loves popsicles, and he doesn’t want anyone walking on his super-sized frozen popsicle lake! If the abominable snowman captures you while you try to cross this lake, you must go to the ice cave over here where you are turned into a frozen popsicle. If you are released, you will become an abominable snowman yourself and you will capture others!

The abominable snowman can’t see anything that is completely frozen and still, so, while you cross the Popsicle Lake you might become frozen and the abominable snowman won’t be able to tag you. He can only tag you if you are moving. Even if your arm or leg moves only a couple of inches, he will see you and he can capture you. Try to move across without being tagged and try to be completely still if he is near you so he can’t tag you.

Who wants to be the abominable snowman?

Pick a volunteer.

Okay, you can wait here in the ice cave until I say, "Go." Okay, everyone line up behind the starting line. Ready? Set. Go!

Try it for a couple of rounds. As players are tagged, you may release some of them from the ice cave to help in the pursuit of capturing others.

Winter hats, scarves, or mittens could be worn by the abominable snowmen to make this more fun and to distinguish them from other players.

Option 2:

Supplies needed: sheet(s) or parachute(s), soft balls or other objects to be bounced on the sheet or parachute

Allow all of the children to make trouble waves with a sheet or parachute and bounce several balls or other objects. It's especially fun to play volleyball back and forth between teams.

Learning Point:

In the wild game of chase and tag, we are reminded of the crazy troubles that we face. Jesus even tells us that we will have troubles. But then he says that he has overcome the power of this world so that we can have peace. Peace is like being still on the inside and not worrying, even when we have troubles on the outside. Stopping to be absolutely still reminds us of stopping to trust in Jesus and know that our troubles can't overwhelm us.

Bible Reading:

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 needed: Veggie Tales -- Where is God When I'm S-Scared, produced by Big Idea. Order from <http://www.veggiegear.com/whergodwheni.html>

Ask a child to read John 16:32-33.

Introduce the Veggie Tales video clip.

Summary:

The video contains two video clips, and the total playing time is 25 minutes 57 seconds, including a 1-minute 12-second intermission called "Silly Songs with Larry." The first video clip is 11 minutes 10 seconds. The first video clip is about a child who watches a scary movie. Consequently, he becomes afraid in the dark. He learns that God created

everything and is bigger than everything, including imaginary monsters. He is comforted in knowing that God is always with him and takes care of him.

One or both of the video clips may be played. The learning point in both video clips is that God loves us and takes care of us in every situation.

Begin just after the opening title, and end just before “Silly Songs with Larry.” Stop the video after the first clip, and allow one or two children to tell their stories by answering the question:

How has God helped you when you faced trouble – even if it was imaginary?

Introduce the next video clip by asking the kids the following questions:

Who can tell us something about Daniel from the Bible? What happened to him?

The second video clip is 12 minutes. The second movie is about Daniel in the lion’s den. It reinforces that God is always with us and takes care of us, even in very serious situations.

Begin just after the opening title, and end just before Bob and Larry summarize what was learned. If you wish to show the video summary, it is an additional 1 minute 35 seconds. Stop the video after the second clip or after the video summary, and interview the kids with the following questions:

Does God still rescue people in miraculous ways today? Why do you think that?

What is God’s greatest, most miraculous rescue? (Answer: Jesus’ death and resurrection.)

Application:

Invite a guest speaker (or share a testimony of your own experience) to describe a troubling time where he/she persevered, and how God gave him/her peace even while going through it.



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.

This is done while discussing the video.

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.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

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:

- a sheet (e.g., flat sheet for a twin bed)
- several soft balls or other objects to be bounced on the sheet
- a large cross (Cut an eight foot two-by-four board into a three foot and a five foot board. Nail the boards together to form a cross.)

Power of the Cross

- same as the *Attention Grabber*

Offering

- cross from the *Attention Grabber*

Learning Game:

- Option 1:
 - masking tape
 - several winter hats, scarves, or mittens
- Option 2:
 - sheet(s) or parachute(s)
 - Many soft balls or other objects to be bounced on a sheet or parachute

Bible Reading

- video: *Veggie Tales—Where is God When I'm S-Scared*, produced by Big Idea—order from <http://www.veggiegear.com/whergodwheni.html>

Application:

- guest speaker