



PEACE – WEEK 3



An untroubled heart
that comes from trusting God

MISSIONS

***“I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart.
And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give.
So don’t be troubled or afraid.”
John 14:27***

PARENT DEVO

(Parents, this is for you to do ahead of time as you prepare your hearts to lead your kids.)

READ Philemon. What stands out to you in this letter? Who do you identify with the most? Why? How does Paul plead with Philemon for Onesimus? As a fellow believer, what does Paul expect Philemon to do? What kind of ending would you write to this story?

DID YOU KNOW? The name Onesimus means useful & in v. 11 Paul makes a word play with it. Onesimus, now a believer, finally lives up to his name. This letter was most likely written and sent at the same time as Colossians. See Col. 4:7-17 and compare the list of names with Ph. 23-24.

REFLECTION: Who in your life do you need to forgive? Who do you need to ask forgiveness from? What is stopping you? How can doing that help you live in peace instead of living with a troubled heart? How does remembering what Christ did for you help you to forgive others?

PRAY: Thank God for the forgiveness He gave you even though you didn’t deserve it. Ask Him to help you forgive, ask for forgiveness, be a peacemaker. Thank Him for the peace He gives when we trust Him.

FINISH LINE:

Trusting God allows us to be at peace with others

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Philemon
Paul, Onesimus, and Philemon

LESSON MATERIALS:

- Empty gift box
- Bible

How to use this lesson:

- Everything that is **bolded** is meant to be read out loud. The rest is either instructions, answers to questions or suggestions for supplies.
- The Finish Line is the key point for the lesson.
- Watermark Kids uses the New Living Translation (NLT) Bible. You can find this translation at www.biblegateway.com.

ACTIVITY 1

PARENTS: This activity is a fun way to practice the memory verse. Before you start, let your kid(s) wrap an empty box to look like a gift. If you don't have a box or wrapping supplies, you could use a gift bag or even a ball/small toy to play the memory verse games.

Our verse tells us that peace is a gift. What do you know about gifts?

Answers will vary. **What do we know about gifts that God gives us?** Answers will vary but remind them that God gives good gifts and His gifts are free for all of His children. **Let's spend some time practicing our memory verse using the gift that we wrapped!**

Memory verse game options:

- Play hot potato with the gift! When the music stops, whoever is holding the gift says the memory verse.
- Pass the gift to each other, saying one word of the verse each time you pass it.
- Have one family member hide the gift. Whoever finds it first gets to say the verse and hide it for the next round.

Today we are going to talk about having peace with others. Our finish line says: Trusting God allows us to be at peace with others. What do you think it means to be at peace with others? Answers will vary. **Romans 12:18 says, "Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone." But it's impossible to always be at peace with everyone! In fact, without trusting God we can't be at peace at all! Let's watch the teaching video to learn about three men who will teach us how trusting God allows us to be at peace with others.**

STORYTIME

Read **Philemon 1:8-21** in the NLT Bible. Then discuss the following questions:

- **Were Philemon and Onesimus at peace with each other?** No.
- **Did Onesimus and Philemon both trust God?** Yes. Paul told both of them about Jesus, and both of them trusted God.
- **What does Onesimus need to do in order to be at peace with Philemon?** Apologize and ask for forgiveness, trust God.
- **What does Philemon need to do so he can be at peace with Onesimus?** Forgive Onesimus, take him back, trust God.

ACTIVITY 2

Paul loved Onesimus and Philemon. He wanted both of them to trust God, so they could be at peace with each other. Paul encouraged Onesimus to trust God by going back to Philemon to apologize and ask for forgiveness even though he could be beaten for running away. Paul also encouraged Philemon to trust God by forgiving Onesimus because God had forgiven Philemon first. Even though it would be hard for both of them, they could be at peace and have untroubled hearts if they trusted God.

Have you ever had to apologize and ask for forgiveness? Have you ever had to forgive someone who hurt you? Let kids share a time they've had to give or receive forgiveness. **We are going to practice what to do when we hurt someone and when someone hurts us.**

PARENTS: for this activity you can use the suggested situations or create your own as a family! You can read them from the lesson, write them down, make them up as you go – whatever works best for your situation!

Choose one situation at a time and read it out loud for everyone to hear, then have two people act out what conflict resolution would look like. Finish with a handshake, high five or hug, and repeat the finish line: **Trusting God allows us to be at peace with others.**

Suggested situations:

1. Ashley took a crayon from Sarah's desk without asking and lost it.
2. Matt told dad that his socks were ugly.
3. Quinn worked hard to build his new Lego set, and his sister broke it.
4. It was Laney's turn to choose a show to watch, but her brother told her the show she chose was for babies.
5. Landry got frustrated and hit Dylan.
6. Jeremiah threw a fit when mom said it was time to turn off the TV.

Resolution:

- First, state why you are offended. For example, "I'm sad that you took my crayon and lost it."
- Allow the other person to apologize. Say, "I'm sorry I took your crayon and lost it. Will you please forgive me?"
- Respond with, "I forgive you." Then give a handshake, high five or a hug and say the finish line!

REMEMBER: All of us are like Onesimus and need forgiveness because we are all sinners. Our sin separates us from God, and we all need His forgiveness. When we believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins and came back to life, and when we trust that God has forgiven us from all of our sins, we can have a relationship with Him. God gives us peace and helps us be at peace with others, just like we practiced! Trusting God allows us to be at peace with others! Let's pray and ask God to help us do that!

DEFINITION:

An untroubled (slow "safe" motion) **heart** (palms over heart) **that comes from trusting** ("T" with arms) **God** (point up).

MEMORY VERSE:

I am leaving you with a gift (hands together, palms up, give from yourself) – **peace** (peace sign) **of mind** (point to head) **and heart** (palms over heart). **And the peace** (peace sign) **I give is a gift** (hands together, palms up, give from yourself) **the world cannot give** (shake head no, wave your finger). **So don't be troubled or afraid** (pretend to be scared).

John 14:27