

March 3rd

Today's Bible Story: Whenever, Wherever (Live in Peace with Everyone) • *Romans 12:18*

Today's Bottom Line: Make peace whenever you can.

Monthly Memory Verse: *If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can.*
Romans 12:18 (NIV)

Monthly Virtue: Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

EARLY ARRIVER ACTIVITY

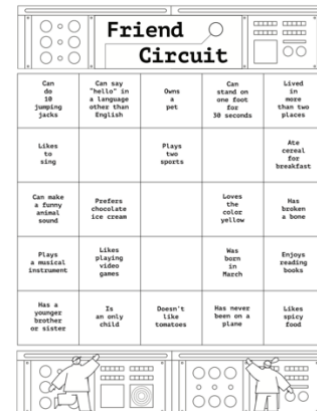
What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a "Friend Circuit" Activity Page and a pencil.
- Encourage the kids to write qualities or traits they like in a friend in the blank spaces.
- As kids continue to arrive, encourage the kids to find another kid who matches one of the qualities on the "Friendship Circuit" Activity Page.
- When they find a kid who matches something on the page, instruct that kid to sign their name inside of the box of the other kid's "Friendship Circuit" Activity Page.
- Set the rule that a kid can't sign another kid's paper more than once.
- When everyone has arrived, compare "Friend Circuit" Activity Pages to see who has the most signatures.
- Invite kids to share something they learned about someone else in the group.

x

Materials:

- Offering container
- "Friend Circuit" Activity Page (1/child)
- Pencils



The image shows a template for the "Friend Circuit" activity page. It features a central title "Friend Circuit" with a circuit-like border. Below the title is a 4x4 grid of boxes, each containing a unique trait or skill. The traits are: "Can do 10 jumping jacks", "Can say 'hello' in a language other than English", "Owns a pet", "Can stand on one foot for 30 seconds", "Lived in more than two states", "Likes to sing", "Plays fun sports", "Has cereal for breakfast", "Can make a funny animal sound", "Prefers chocolate ice cream", "Loves the color yellow", "Has broken a bone", "Plays a musical instrument", "Likes playing video games", "Has been in a fight", "Enjoys reading books", "Has a purple bumper or sticker", "Is an only child", "Doesn't like tomatoes", "Has never been on a plane", and "Likes spicy food". At the bottom of the page, there are two small illustrations of a child sitting at a table with a pencil, ready to write.

BEFORE LARGE GROUP

Act It Out (Memory Verse)

<p>What You Do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure each kid has a Bible.• Together, look up Romans 12:18, using the Bible Navigation Tips below. <p><i>Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:</i> Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Romans in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Romans, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Romans. Help the kids find the page. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 12. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 18 in chapter 12.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read the verse out loud a few times together.• Instruct the kids to come up with hand motions and other movements to go along with the verse.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Kids can work in pairs or groups, or you can keep everyone together to share ideas.• Give the kids a few moments to create motions.• Recite the verse with the motions a few times together—allow the kids to lead when appropriate. <p>What You Say: That was so much fun! I loved seeing the motions you chose to go along with our Memory Verse this month. Keep practicing the verse and share it with your families too!</p> <p>This month’s Memory Verse is all about peace, and it’s so helpful to remember to choose peace whenever we can. Choosing peace is a great way to treat others the way we want to be treated. When we choose to care about others more than we care about winning an argument, we’re choosing peace. Use this month’s Memory Verse to help you remember to [Bottom Line] make peace whenever you can!</p>	<p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bibles
---	---

AFTER LARGE GROUP

STATION 1: Power Up Peace (Bible Story Review)

What You Do:

- Tell the kids you're going to create blanks to represent a word from the Bible story.
- Pick a word from the "Power Up Peace" Activity Page, but don't tell the kids what it is.
- Use the marker to draw a blank line on the whiteboard for each letter in the word.
- *Optional: Fill in the first letter of the word to help get kids started.*
- Invite kids to take turns guessing a letter.
 - If the letter is in the word, fill in those blank(s) on the board.
 - If the letter is not in the word, draw a part of the peace sign as shown on the "Power Up Peace" Activity Page.
- Challenge the kids to guess the word before you draw all five parts of the peace sign.
- Invite any kids who think they know the word to solve it at any time during the game.
- One the kids guess a word correctly, ask if they remember what it has to do with today's story. (Possible responses listed below.)
 - Paul: *wrote a letter to a new group of Jesus-followers in Rome.*
 - Letter: *Paul's letter helped explain what it looks like to follow Jesus.*
 - Romans: *a letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Rome*
 - Peace: *a feeling of calm; proving you care more about each other than winning an argument*
 - Listen: *We can show peace by listening to people even if we don't agree.*
 - Everyone: *Paul wrote: "If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can." (Romans 12:18, NIV)*
- Repeat with each word from the "Power Up Peace" Activity Page.

What You Say:

You all did a great job guessing some very important words from today's Bible story! What were some of the words we found today? (*Pause for responses: Paul, letter, Romans, peace, listen, everyone.*)

Materials

- "Power Up Peace" Activity Page (1/small group)
- Whiteboard
- Dry-erase marker



Paul	Romans	Listen
Letter	Peace	Everyone

Is it always easy to have peace? *(Pause for responses.)* It sounds like peace might be a little easier for some and a little harder for others. When we're upset, it can sometimes feel easier to react quickly and say the first thing that pops into our head. But instead, we should pause and think about how we can make peace in that situation. You might not always have everything go your way, but it's important to care about others and **[Bottom Line] make peace whenever you can.**

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when you were in a situation that made you feel upset or frustrated, but you chose peace anyway. Maybe a sibling made you upset, or a friend forgot your birthday, or you got into an argument with a coworker. Talk about why it was important for you to care more about others and make the choice to keep the peace.)

AFTER LARGE GROUP

STATION 2: Letter Together (Bible Story Review)

What You Do:

- Remind the kids that Paul wrote letters teaching people how to follow Jesus.
- Use the Bible to read Romans 12:18 aloud to the group. Remind kids in this verse Paul wrote about peace.
- Explain the kids will write a letter of their own about peace.
- Give each kid a “Letter Together” Activity Page and a pencil.
- Keep one “Letter Together” Activity Page for yourself.
- Read the letter on the “Letter Together” Activity Page out loud, saying “blank” for each blank.
- Instruct the kids to fill in the blanks in the “Letter Together” Activity Page to give advice on how to keep the peace.
- Once the kids have filled in the blanks, invite them to share their letters (with the whole group or with a partner), as time and comfort allow.

What You Say:

Just like Paul, you all did a great job writing letters to share how to **[Bottom Line] make peace whenever you can!** Just like your examples showed, we can all make the choice to keep the peace. We can take a deep breath and pause before we speak. We can really listen to what the other person has to say. And if we ever get stuck, we can ask a trusted adult to help if we don't know what to do.

When you choose to follow Jesus, you can have peace with God. God sends the Holy Spirit to live within you. And God's Spirit can help you make peace with others. Peace is a gift that's given to us as we follow Jesus, and we can still have peace no matter how the other person responds.

Your letters will help you remember the ways you can **[Bottom Line] make peace whenever you can!**”

Materials:

- “Letter Together” Activity Page (1/child)
- Pencils
- Bible

Paul said that we should live in peace with _____.

Peace is proving we care more about each other than

_____. There are so many ways to have

peace in our lives! If we disagree with a family member, we can

_____ to make peace. If we're mad at a friend,

we can _____ before we respond. If we don't

know how to keep the peace, we can _____.

When we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in us. With

God's Spirit helping us, we should make _____

whenever we can!