

PEACE IN A COMMUNITY CURRICULUM OVERVIEW OF LESSONS FOR THE FIRST TERM Standard II

The lessons for this term are divided into three units. The first unit is foundational for knowing God based on Strand 1A: God the Creator and Father. The second unit introduces the foundational Skill for Peacemaking based on Strand 4B: Communication Skills. The third unit is foundational on knowing God, the Son, Jesus Christ. It is based on Strand 1B: Jesus Christ: God the Son. Each lesson is developed from a Bible story. The Bible references are from Good News Translation unless otherwise indicated.

In addition to the basic **Teacher and Student Activities**, you are encouraged to utilize the information found in the **Notes for Teachers** which are written to give you more background for the Bible story or helps that may strengthen the lesson.

There are **Extension Activities** included. You are encouraged to provide two exercise books at the beginning of the year for each child which they will use throughout the course. One exercise book will be referred to as the *Memory Verse Exercise Book*. Each week you are encouraged to have the students write their memory verse in the book with the reference. On some lessons you will find suggested activities for helping the student commit these verses to memory. This will be a book they can refer to for many years. The *other exercise book* will be used to summarize the key point the student has learned that day. It too can be used as a reference in years to come.

Most lessons will have some optional activities that allow the topic to become more relevant. These may be in the form of games, object lessons, guided discussion, an exercise related to the lesson, or other suggestions for expanding the teaching of this lesson. You may have a better suggestion for helping your students understand this lesson. You are free to use what is most helpful in planting these topics in the minds and hearts of your students. It is the desire of the writer that students at this age realize God's Word is relevant for our lives today.

Here is a brief outline of the ten lessons for the first term.

KNOWING GOD, THE FATHER, AND JESUS, THE SON INTRODUCTION TO FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS FOR PEACEMAKING

Unit One: God—the Foundation

Lesson 2.1: God, the Creator

"In the beginning...God created the universe." Genesis 1:1

Basic Truth: Knowing God is essential for becoming a true peacemaker

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-31; 3:1-11

Key Point: God loves us so much He created the world (including us) for us to enjoy. He gives us the responsibility of taking care of His creation.

Special Emphasis: We are connected together in God's family because God loves every one of us and cares about us all.

Lesson 2.2: God, the Father

"God is love." 1 John 4:8

Basic Truth: God is our heavenly Father

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Key Point: God allows us to make choices. Should we make wrong choices, God loves us still and welcomes us back.

Special Emphasis: Enjoy a celebration as you see God as your heavenly Father who welcomes you into His family

Lesson 2.3: God is Peace

"Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and named it "The Lord is peace." Judges 6:24

Basic Truth: True peace begins by knowing God

Scripture: Judges 6:1-24; 7:1-24

Key Point: God wants us to live peacefully with one another. Peace allows us to move forward with inner confidence in the face of unrest.

Special Emphasis: Defining Peace using the acronym P-E-A-C-E

Unit Two: Introducing Foundational Skills for Peacemaking

Lesson 2.4: Stay Calm

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart." Proverbs 3:5

Basic Truth: Rules for Talking Together. Rule One: Stay Calm

Scripture: Esther 2-5

Key Point: Staying calm in the face of unrest/conflict is the first step for a peacemaker to achieve toward talking things over.

Special Emphasis: Recognizing feelings in ourselves and others.

Lesson 2.5: Learn to Listen to Other

"Everyone must be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1:19

Basic Truth: Rules for Talking Together. Rule Two: Listen to the Other

Scripture: Acts 18:1-4; 18-28

Key Point: Listening shows respect for each other and helps us understand each other

Special Emphasis: Learning the Talking Together Rules with actions

Lesson 2.6: Care About Each Other

"Love one another." John 13:34

Basic Truth: Rules for Talking Together. Rule Three: Care about Each Other

Scripture: Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-37

Key Point: Jesus demonstrated the importance of thinking of others before ourselves. Becoming peacemakers means we have compassion for the other.

Special Emphasis: Demonstration that teaches caring for others benefits both the caring person and the receiver.

Lesson 2.7: Talk Together

"Let us...help one another to show love and to do good." Hebrews 10:24

Basic Truth: Rules for Talking Together. Rule Four: Talk Together

Scripture: I Samuel 20:1-42

Key Point: Talking together peacefully is the best way to work out conflicts and misunderstandings

Special Emphasis: Learning actions and a chant to easily remind students of the Four Rules for Talking Together

Unit 3: Jesus Christ: God the Son

Lesson 2.8 God Sent His Son

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16

Basic Truth: Jesus humbled Himself and came to earth as a baby

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-2:12

Key Point: Jesus is the fulfillment of God to send the Messiah who would save us from our sins and open the way for us to spend eternity with God

Special Emphasis: Creating a decorative tree making paper ornaments that remind us of the events surrounding Jesus' birth

Lesson 2.9 Jesus Gave His Life For Us

"I am the good shepherd...I am willing to die for them." John 10:14-15

Basic Truth: Jesus came to give His life on the cross that we might have eternal life

Scripture: Mark 14:12-15:47

Key Point: Jesus willingly took our sins upon Himself on the cross. We simply have to confess our sins to Jesus and we are forgiven.

Special Emphasis: The crucifixion story is presented using seven candles

Lesson 2.10 Jesus Lives

"He is not here—He has been raised!" Mark 16:6

Basic Truth: We serve a living Christ

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 28:1-10; John 20:1-18

Key Point: Jesus the Son of God has overcome death. He is alive and in heaven with God watching over us and listening and directing us

Special Emphasis: Observing how a seed dies before it sprouts to give life just as Jesus died and is alive today