

2.3 GOD IS PEACE

Topic: Learning About God

Subtopic: God Is Peace

1A: God the Creator and Father

Class: Standard II (2nd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: When students are asked to describe who God is, they will say a characteristic of God is that He is peace.

Attitude: Students who invite God into their hearts experience peace within.

Materials Needed:

Exercise Books

Chalkboard and chalk

(optional) simple treat such as bananas to share with the whole class

(optional) props to accompany the story

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

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse:

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

Teacher Activities

Introduction:

1. When you hear the word peace, what do you think it means. Spell out P-E-A-C-E in a vertical line on chalkboard and involve children in finding a word beginning with each letter that defines peace.

Bible Story:

2. Tell the story of Gideon from Judges 6:1-24; 7:1-24

Suggested Discussion

Questions

3. What do we learn about God in our lesson today?
4. What happened to Gideon to help him know that God is Peace?
5. When we are afraid or jealous and fear we will be punished for something we have done, what do we do?
6. Does God want us to be peacemakers?

Application:

7. Discuss with children how peacemaking is a skill that can be used every day. Using illustrations from their daily lives will help them see that peacemaking is very important.

Evaluation:

8. How can knowing God help us be

Student Activities

Introduction:

1. Listen for children to define peace. Then put words that begin with each letter in the word peace.

Bible Story:

2. Students listen to story of Gideon and how he learned that God is Peace.

Possible Answers to Questions

3. God is Peace
4. Gideon realized he had been visited by an angel and he heard God tell him to calm down and be at peace.
5. We fight, speak angrily, say hateful things about the other, refuse to speak
6. Yes. God wants us to live in harmony with others.

Application:

7. Students can recall instances when they have been afraid or were in conflict with others and discuss their feelings and talk about what they did.

Evaluation:

8. God is Peace. He wants to help us be peacemakers. Join hands to make a circle. Then thank God for being the God of peace and ask God to teach you how to be peacemakers.

Extension Activities

1. *Memory Verse Activity:* Help children learn this verse and then write it in their Memory Verse Exercise book: “Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and named it “The Lord is Peace.” Judges 6:24
2. *Lesson Exercise Book:* Have children write at the top of the third page: “Learning About God” Underneath it write “God is Peace”. Fill the space under that with the acronym you created for them to define peace.
3. *Find the hidden treat:* Hide a banana stalk or other treat like biscuits or yams somewhere before the class begins. When you have finished the main lesson, tell the children that you have hidden a treat (tell them what) within the room (compound). They are to search for it. When they get close to it, tell them they are getting hot. When they are going away from it, tell them they are getting cold. Observe how they search for this together. Are they working in harmony with each other or are they creating conflict in their search? [If the class is large you may want to ask a few to do the searching while others look on.] When the treat is found, talk about the manner in which they went about searching. Was it peaceful or conflicting? Enjoy the treat together.
4. *Acting out the Bible Story:* Have props prepared for children to use and then choose children to act out this story perhaps as you are telling it. Children remember stories better when they have something visual.

Notes for Teacher

Defining Peace Using an Acronym

Involving the children in filling in a descriptive way of defining peace helps you understand how they understand peace. You may need to help them find words that begin with each letter of the word P-E-A-C-E. Here is a suggestion that may help you fill this out.

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| P | Protected and safe |
| E | Existing together happily |
| A | Absence of conflict |
| C | Content, not afraid |
| E | Enter what others are feeling. |

Highlights for the Bible Story

Background: It is helpful if you can make this story come alive. Gideon and his people were scared. Their neighbors were stealing their crops or destroying their animals and stealing from their homes.

1. An angel came to where Gideon was hiding, threshing some grain. Angels are messengers from God. Gideon really didn't think that God cared about them any more or surely He wouldn't let their neighbors treat them so badly. The angel told Gideon that he would be strong because he was being given the power to rescue his people.
2. Gideon needed proof as to whom this messenger was. He prepared a special meal and when he gave it to the angel, the angel touched it with the tip of his walking stick. Flames jumped from the rock and burned up the meat and the bread and when Gideon looked for the angel, he was nowhere to be seen.
3. Gideon was afraid but then God told him to calm down, that there was nothing to be afraid of. That made Gideon feel at peace in his heart. Gideon needed to have a way of expressing

what he had experienced so he built an altar and called it “The Lord is Peace” or “God is Peace.”

4. Gideon obeyed the Lord and with only 300 men he overcame the Midianites who had been unkind to them.

Help Students Identify Everyday Instances When Peacemaking is important.

You can use illustrations you know about when things have not been peaceful for these children. Maybe these examples could be used.

1. You go to write in your exercise book and when you look for your pen to write with, you can't find it. You look over and see that a person you thought was your friend is using it. When you ask him about it, your friend begins to hit you and chase you out of the classroom. Does this sound like a peaceful time?
2. It is late at night and you are preparing to go to bed. Then you hear voices outside your house. There is a loud bang on the door to your house and angry people suddenly appear in your home and disrupt your family. You are afraid and want to hide. Would you describe this as peaceful?
3. It is night time and a storm comes up suddenly. The lightening is flashing and there is a lot of loud thunder. You can hear tree branches creaking in the strong wind. You can hear heavy rain on the roof of your house. You feel scared. You are worried because your father hasn't come home yet and you wonder where he is. Then mother gathers you and your brothers and sisters together around the little fire. She begins to tell you a story and suddenly you aren't aware of the storm anymore. You feel safe and cared for. Does this sound like a peaceful setting?

Use opportunity to identify how people react when they are afraid or faced with conflict. Sometimes we fight. Speaking angrily or saying hateful things about the other fuels the conflict. Sometimes we refuse to speak. What other ways can you describe that are common reactions when peace is disrupted?

Key Points

1. Find a way to define peace that your students can understand.
2. God is the God of peace.
3. Help children define actions commonly taken when things are not peaceful.
4. God wants us to live peacefully with one another.

Closing this Lesson Can Be Meaningful

Make a circle and hold each other's hands as you pray thanking God for being a God of peace and asking God to teach all of you how to become peacemakers.

Teacher Evaluation

Have I used illustrations that are appropriate for these children to understand regarding peace in our daily lives? Can I begin now to watch for occasions when things are not peaceful and pause to help the children get in touch with the God of peace so things can return to harmony?

