

The Search for Peace



BIG IDEA

Jesus gives us a peace that stays with us, even when life feels uncertain.



LEADER GOAL

Help students understand that while people often look for peace in circumstances, relationships, or possessions, lasting peace is found in Jesus. Encourage students to continue developing an honest prayer life by reminding them that God welcomes every emotion and every part of their lives.



BEFORE STUDENTS ARRIVE

- Review John 14:27 and Psalm 62:8.
- Prepare to lead discussion about peace in Jesus and honest prayer.



WELCOME + CONNECT

Reconnect, check in, and help every student feel part of the group.



LEADER SAYS

“Welcome back, everyone!

Last time, your challenge was to spend some time talking with God in prayer. Did anyone give that a try this week? What was that experience like?”

(Allow students to share. Encourage everyone, whether they prayed once, every day, or not at all.)

“Prayer is something we grow in over time. The more we talk with God, the more we learn that He loves hearing from us.

Today we’re going to talk about finding peace, especially when life feels new, uncertain, or overwhelming.”



LIVE SPARK

PEACE IN UNCERTAIN PLACES

GRAB

A snow globe. Shake it before you begin so the inside is cloudy and hard to see.

IDEA

When life feels unfamiliar or uncertain, trying harder to control everything does not always bring peace. Jesus offers a peace rooted in His presence, even before circumstances change.

SPARK

Jesus gives me peace when life feels uncertain.



DO / SAY

[Hold up the snow globe and shake it.]

"Okay. I am trying to make this clear."

[Shake it again.]

"That did not help. Maybe one more shake?"

[Pause for reaction, then set it down.]

"What if the way to see more clearly is actually to stop shaking it?"

[Watch it begin to settle.]

"Sometimes life can feel like this too. Something changes. We are somewhere new. We do not know what is going to happen next. And our minds can start swirling."

"Dorothy feels some of that when she arrives in Munchkinland. People are welcoming her, but she still does not know where she is or how she will get home."

"Sometimes we think, 'I will feel peaceful when everything is fixed.' But Jesus offers something different."

"Peace does not mean pretending nothing is wrong. It means remembering who is with us while we are still figuring things out."

[Point to the globe as it clears.]

"We can pause. We can tell Jesus honestly how we feel. And we can remember that He is near."

"That is our Spark this week: JESUS GIVES ME PEACE WHEN LIFE FEELS UNCERTAIN."

"So here is something to think about: Where can we find peace when everything feels unfamiliar? Let's get started."

THEN

Move directly into "Munchkinland - The Search for Peace."



STORY CONNECTION

MUNCHKINLAND — THE SEARCH FOR PEACE

LEADER SAYS

“When Dorothy first arrives in Munchkinland, everything is different. Nothing looks familiar. She doesn’t know where she is. She doesn’t know how she’s going to get home. Even though the Munchkins welcome her, she’s still in a completely new place.

Have you ever felt like that?”

Maybe you’ve started at a new school. Joined a new team. Moved to a new neighbourhood. Started a new activity. Or maybe life changed in a way you weren’t expecting.

When we’re in unfamiliar situations, it can be difficult to feel settled. We might feel nervous, uncertain, or even overwhelmed.

It’s natural to want things to feel normal again.

Sometimes, when we’re searching for peace, we look for it in different places.

We might think, “I’ll feel better when this problem goes away.” Or when I make more friends. Or when I get the part I wanted. Or when everything finally settles down.



STORY CONNECTION

Those things can bring happiness for a while, but they don't always last.

Jesus offers something different. He said:

"I give you peace, the kind of peace only I can give. It isn't like the peace this world can give. So don't be worried or afraid." John 14:27 (CEV)

Jesus isn't saying we'll never face difficult situations. He's saying that even in the middle of those situations, He is with us. The peace Jesus gives isn't based on everything going perfectly. It's based on knowing that God is present with us wherever we go.

Sometimes our circumstances change. Sometimes they don't. But Jesus remains faithful through every season.

When life feels uncertain, we can bring our worries to Him and trust that He will give us the strength, comfort, and peace we need for today.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Why do you think it can be difficult to feel peaceful when everything around us changes?
- 2 Where do you usually look for comfort when you're having a hard day?
- 3 What do you think Jesus meant when He said He gives us a different kind of peace?
- 4 How do you think talking honestly with God can help us experience His peace?
- 5 What are some practical ways we can remember that God is with us when life feels uncertain?



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

PRAYER — KEEPING IT REAL

“Last week, we learned that prayer is talking with God. Who remembers some of the things we can talk to God about?”

“That’s right! We can thank God. We can ask for help. We can tell Him about our worries. We can ask questions. We can say sorry when we’ve made mistakes.

Today we’re going to learn something else that’s really important. God wants us to be honest with Him.

Sometimes people think they have to use special words when they pray. Or maybe they feel like they have to pretend everything is okay.

But that’s not what God wants. God already knows us completely. He knows what we’re thinking. He knows what we’re excited about. He knows what makes us laugh. He knows what makes us anxious. He knows our fears, our struggles, our dreams, and our disappointments.

And He loves us completely.

Because God already knows us, we don’t have to pretend when we pray. We can come to Him exactly as we are.

If you’re excited, tell Him. If you’re stressed, tell Him. If you’re confused, tell Him. If you’re angry, tell Him. If you’re thankful, tell Him. If you’re bored, tell Him that too.

God wants a real relationship with us, and real relationships are built on honesty.

The Bible says: “Trust God, my friends, and always tell him each of your concerns. God is our place of safety.” Psalm 62:8

This verse reminds us that God is a safe place. There isn’t a problem that’s too big for Him. There isn’t a feeling that’s too small to matter.

He invites us to bring our whole selves to Him because He loves us and wants to walk with us through every part of life.”



STUDENT REFLECTION

PROMPT What does it mean to be honest with God?



THIS WEEK - YOUR CHALLENGE!

"This week, your challenge is to be completely honest with God in prayer. If something is making you happy, thank Him for it. If something is worrying you, tell Him about it. If you have questions, ask them. Remember, you don't have to pretend with God. He already knows you, loves you, and wants to hear from you."



CLOSING PRAYER

"Let's pray together.

Dear God,

Thank You for bringing us together today. Thank You for being with us wherever we go, even when life feels unfamiliar or uncertain. Thank You for giving us a peace that doesn't depend on everything going perfectly, but comes from knowing that You are always with us.

Help us continue growing in prayer. Teach us to be honest with You about our joys, our worries, our questions, and our struggles.

Thank You that You are our safe place and that You always listen with love and compassion. Please continue to help us grow closer to You each day.

Amen."

Connection Activities



SUPPLIES

Nada



ACTIVITY 1 | WIZARD SAYS

Play Simon Says, but replace “Simon” with “The Wizard says...” Campers should only do the action if the leader says, “The Wizard says.” If not, they stay still.

Use Wizard of Oz-themed actions, such as:

- Skip down the Yellow Brick Road (Dorothy)
- Walk like a rusty Tin Man
- Wobble like a Scarecrow
- Roar like the Cowardly Lion
- Ride a broom like the Wicked Witch
- Fly like a Flying Monkey
- Pull the Wizard’s giant lever



ACTIVITY 2 | PRAYER BRACELET

Supplies

- Elastic cord or stretch string
- Pony beads in six colours
- Optional: Letter beads, cross charm, or small spacer beads

Instructions

1. Give each camper a piece of elastic cord.
2. As they add each coloured bead, explain what it represents.
3. Tie the bracelet securely and encourage campers to wear it throughout the week as a reminder to pray for others.

Colour Guide

- Red – Pray for your family
- Orange – Pray for your friends
- Yellow – Pray for your teachers and leaders
- Green – Pray for someone who is sick, hurting, or struggling
- Blue – Pray for your church and community
- Purple – Pray for someone who doesn't know Jesus
- White – Reminder that Jesus hears our every prayer