

GOD OFFERS PEACE INSTEAD OF WORRY

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: VALUE

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS PEACE INSTEAD OF WORRY

John 14:27; 16:33; Romans 5:1; Colossians 3:15-17

BIBLE VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 4:5-7

“Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

BIG IDEAS

- Sin causes us to choose worry and fear instead of faith.
- We fight worry with thanksgiving.
- Peace is only found in Jesus.
- The gospel is proof that we can trust God in all things.

BIBLE STORY: 1 KINGS 17:8-16

God’s peace is not like the world’s peace. It is perfect and right. When we turn our fears and worries to God in prayer, we experience God’s peace like the widow experienced it when she trusted God. She did not have a lot of flour or oil, yet she used what she had, trusting that God would take care of her and her son.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God offers us new life (new desires, purpose) through Jesus



Every child should feel:

- The need to live differently because of Jesus



Every child should:

- See life in light of God’s promises to those who are in Jesus



Every child should want:

- To be freed and rescued from their sin and given new life in Jesus

FAMILY DEVOTION: PEACE IN EVERY SITUATION

We will face many situations that may cause us fear and worry, but we can take these feelings to God in prayer. When we approach Him with thanksgiving and ask for His peace, He gives it to us. We can have peace and trust Him in every situation.

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God is steadfast and everlasting.

- God is eternal and constant.
- He rules over everything now and always.
- Because He is eternal, we can trust in Him always.
- We can trust God to never change and to care for us always.
- He is the rock that we can stand upon without worry.

God hears the prayers of His people.

- God is not an absent God.
- He is actively involved in His people’s lives.
- He hears the prayers of His people and answers them according to His will.
- We can trust God with anything and everything in our lives.

God offers peace to His people.

- God is mighty and powerful.
- He overcomes all things.
- We do not have to worry because we can trust God to take care of all things according to His will.
- Not only do we not have to worry, but, when we pray, God gives us peace in all things.
- He offers us peace and we can trust Him with everything.

BIBLE STORY: 1 KINGS 17:8-16

Opening Illustration:

Bring in several different colored pom-poms. Divide the children into small groups and toss the pom-poms all together onto the floor. Have the groups race one another to gather a specific color of pom-pom. For example, one team will gather only red pom-poms. Once they are finished, talk with them about how God offers us a new relationship through Jesus and adopts us into His family, which brings us peace.

GOD OFFERS PEACE INSTEAD OF WORRY

BIG IDEA: SIN CAUSES US TO CHOOSE WORRY AND FEAR INSTEAD OF FAITH.¹

Sin makes us believe the lie that God doesn't care.

- Our sin blinds us to truth.
- The truth is that God's love is eternal, but sin makes us believe that God doesn't care.
- Our sin blinds us to the truth that God's love is unconditional.
- Our sin causes us to think that God's love is based upon our actions or works.
- The truth is God's love is based upon His choice.
- He chooses to love us and it has nothing to do with our action.



Divide the children into small groups and give each group a piece of paper and markers. Have the children make a list of their top five fears. Let each group share with the class and then remind them that our sin makes us choose worry and fear over peace.

Sin makes us believe God isn't capable of helping us.

- The widow had hardly any flour and oil left in her house.
- She was preparing for the death of her son and her.
- We are like her sometimes.
- We believe that God isn't able to save us or that He won't save us.

Faith means we do not worry and fear.

- When we have faith that God will help us, we turn our worry and fear over to Him.
- When we worry and have fear, we can turn those into prayers of faith and thanksgiving, reminding ourselves of who God is and how He loves.
- Sin would have us only worry and fear and not believe.
- Faith has us give our worry and fear to God through prayer and thanksgiving and thinking about who God is.

What causes us to worry and fear? (Our sin causes us to worry and fear.)

What does our sin make us believe about God? (It makes us believe He can't help us and that He doesn't love us.)

1. John 14:27: *When we worry and fear, we are not resting in God's peace, which comes from Jesus.*

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BIG IDEA: WE FIGHT WORRY WITH THANKSGIVING.²

Thanksgiving means we recall who God is.

- Elijah had faith in God and he knew who God is.
- Elijah knew God controlled all things.
- Elijah knew God loves eternally.
- When we give thanks to God, we thank Him for being who He is.
- This thanksgiving reminds us of the truth and produces faith instead of worry.

Thanksgiving means we recall what God did.

- Elijah had faith because he knew what God had done for Him.
- The widow trusted God to provide and He did.
- Her faith was increased and she could remember with thanksgiving God's faithfulness.
- We can fight worry when we remember all that God has done for us.
- God promised a Savior and He sent a Savior.
- He promises to care for us and He always does.
- We can thankfully remember the ways God has been faithful and drive worry away.



Have the children sit in a circle. Pass a beanbag or another soft object as music plays. When the music stops, the child holding the beanbag gets to name one thing he is thankful that God has done. Do this until each child has a chance to name something. Remind the children that we fight worry when we give thanks.

How do we fight worry? (When we are thankful and remember the things God has done, we fight worry.)

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:18: *When we give thanks in any circumstance, we show that we trust God instead of worrying.*

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BIG IDEA: PEACE IS ONLY FOUND IN JESUS.

True peace is from God.

- Any peace given by the world is not true peace.
- We may think we feel peaceful when we're trusting in worldly things, like our material possessions, job, or other people, but that feeling is not steadfast.
- Those things can fade away or disappear in an instant.
- Only God can give true peace because only God is everlasting and eternal.
- The widow had hardly any food, yet she did what Elijah told her to do.
- She believed that God would take care of her and her son.
- We can have true peace when we trust in God and not anything in this world.

God gives peace through Jesus.³

- Peace is from God because everything is from God.
- There is nothing that exists that doesn't come from God because He is the source of all things.
- The widow trusted that there would be food and there was.
- God's peace is given through Jesus.
- Jesus paid our sin debt and we can trust in His work.
- This trust can give us peace forever if we have saving faith.



Have the children create their own peace jars using construction paper and markers. Help them cut out two jar shapes and glue or staple them together leaving the top open. Next, have the children write down the things that God gives them peace in on small pieces of paper and have them place them in their jars. Remind them that true peace only comes from Jesus.

In whom is peace found? (Peace is found only in Jesus.)

3. Colossians 3:15: Peace comes through Jesus and it can rule in our hearts always.

GOD OFFERS PEACE INSTEAD OF WORRY

BIG IDEA: THE GOSPEL IS PROOF THAT WE CAN TRUST GOD IN ALL THINGS.⁴

God is always true to His Word.

- God's Word is always true.
- He always does what He says He's going to do.
- The widow acted in faith and God provided.
- Her flour and oil never ran out because God provided for her.
- We can always trust God's Word.
- He will always do what He says.

The gospel shows God's faithfulness.

- God promised to save His people when He sent Adam and Eve out of the garden.
- Hundreds of years later, God did what He said He was going to do.
- The gospel shows us that God is faithful.
- The widow trusted God and He was faithful to her.
- We can trust God because He is faithful.
- He has proven His faithfulness through the gospel.
- He continues to show His faithfulness to the world by continuing to sustain it and giving all people a chance to surrender to Jesus.



Have the children look up verses in the Old Testament that prophesy about the coming Messiah. Next, have them look up verses in the New Testament that tell the story of Jesus coming and saving the world. Remind the children that the gospel alone proves that God can be trusted in all things.

What is proof that we can trust God? (The gospel is proof we can trust God.)

4. Psalm 33:4: God's faithfulness is forever and everlasting.

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HOOKS



*Oil and Flour Play Dough

Help the children make Play Dough using oil and flour like the widow made bread using oil and flour. You will need 2 cups of flour, 1 cup of salt, 1 cup of water and 2 tablespoons of cooking oil, a couple of bowls and small zip lock bags. You can adjust this recipe up or down based on how many children you think you might have. Mix all of the ingredients together. Add the water and the cooking oil. Next, knead the dough for at least 10 minutes. The kneading will make the dough smooth and shiny. Flour your hand to prevent the dough from sticking. As an option you can bring food coloring to make the dough a certain color. Give a little bit of dough to each child with a small zip lock bag to take home. As you make the Play Dough, talk with the children about how the widow didn't worry and instead trusted God. We can trust God and not worry because He sent Jesus to save us. This shows that God does what He says He's going to do.



**Please be aware of children with allergies.*



A Collage of Peace

Have the children make a collage of the times when God gives us peace, using magazine pictures or pictures printed online. Allow the children to share their collages and then talk with them about how God gives us peace instead of worry and fear. We can trust God because He sent Jesus to save us like He said He would. The widow trusted God and didn't worry and we can choose to trust God, too. God gives us peace instead of worry and fear when we choose to trust Him.