

GOD OFFERS PEACE INSTEAD OF WORRY

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

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PEACE IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE

As a family, create worry and peace masks using construction paper and craft sticks. Help your child draw the expression that represents worry to him on construction paper and the expression that represents peace. Use the masks to talk about situations that cause worry and how we can have peace with God. God offers us peace instead of worry and we can trust Him because He is faithful.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

1 Kings 17:8-16.

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Elijah was God's messenger or prophet. Elijah spoke out against the prophets of the false god, Baal. King Ahab reigned during Elijah's ministry, and Ahab's wife, Jezebel did not like Elijah. She sought to kill him, so Elijah had to hide from her. One day Elijah encountered a widow with a young son. Because of the famine that had occurred in the land, the widow had very little food. She had only enough oil and flour to make one last cake of bread. She was preparing to make the cake of bread for her son and her as their last meal, when she met Elijah. Elijah asked her to make him the cake of bread instead. The widow believed that God would provide. She believed Elijah and she trusted God. She made the cake of bread for Elijah and helped feed him as he was running from Jezebel. Her jars of flour and oil never ran out. She always miraculously had a supply of oil and flour. Even in a difficult circumstance, she had peace because she trusted God. We can have peace, too, when we trust God. God offers us peace instead of worry and we can trust Him.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- What did Elijah ask the widow to do for him? (He asked her to give him her last cake of bread.)
- What did the widow do? (She gave her last cake of bread to Elijah and she trusted God.)
- How did God show Himself faithful to her? (Her flour and oil never ran out.)
- How do we get peace? (We trust God and turn to Him in prayer and thanksgiving.)



As a family, memorize Philippians 4:5-7 by writing the verses on a poster board. Hang the poster board in a place where it is easily seen. Throughout the week, at mealtimes, spend a few minutes going over the verses.



Use a bandana as a blindfold and take your child on a trust walk through your neighborhood. As you walk with your child, talk with her about how the widow trusted God and she had peace instead of worry. Remind her that we can have peace, too, when we trust God. We can trust Him because He sent Jesus to save us.



Create a peace jar using an empty container you have in your house. Label the container "Peace Jar". As a family, throughout the week, when someone feels fearful or is worrying, have them write down their worry and fear and place it in the jar as a sign of giving it to God in prayer and thanksgiving. When someone places something in the jar, take a few minutes to pray for them and to ask for God's peace. Remind your child that God offers us peace instead of worry.



Spend some time this week sharing with your child about different times when you've worried or been fearful and God has given you peace. Help your child create a picture book that shows the difference between the peace of the world and God's peace. For example, the world may have peace in their material possessions while God offers peace through Jesus.

As a family, spend some time this week praying, thanking God for giving us peace instead of worry and fear.