Lesson 11: God Is My Peace

Overview:

Key Focus: Jehovah Shalom; If you have Jesus—you have peace.

Bible Story: Gideon (Jehovah Shalom)

Scriptures: Judges 6–7, Colossians 3:15, 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:15 (NKJV) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Sing with the words "Jehovah Shalom."
- An umbrella
- A device to play peaceful worship music

Classroom Prep:

- Print the scenarios listed in Bible Story Activity: Games. Each small group should have a scenario to act out.

Engage:

Review the names of God Jehovah Jireh (Provider), Jehovah Rapha (Healer), Jehovah M'Kaddesh (Sanctifier/Holy), Jehovah Nissi (Protector/Banner), and Jehovah Shammah (There/Present).

Hold up the "Jehovah Shalom" sign. **Today's name of God is something that people all around the world want to have in their lives.** Hold up the umbrella. **God's name, Jehovah Shalom, is something that is available to us, but we need to choose to use it, just like an umbrella.** Have the children hold up their arms and wiggle their fingers to pretend to be rain. **If I walked in a rainstorm, would I keep my umbrella closed?** (No.) **Why not?** (Possible answers:

You would get wet; it is silly to have it and not use it; the umbrella isn't being used for its purpose.) **Having an umbrella is good, but if I don't use it—it is wasted. We are learning about the true nature of God through His redemptive names so that we will choose to use them and the power that is in them. Today we will learn that God is peace and why peace is so important for us to choose to use His peace in our lives.** Place the "Jehovah Shalom" sign by the other names of God.

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the verse as you remind the group that they can choose to let the peace of God rule in their hearts. Have the children gather in a large area and sit on the floor. Play peaceful worship music, and when the music stops, everyone jumps up and says the verse together. When the music starts again, they freeze until the music stops, and recite the verse. Repeat several times.

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:15 (NKJV) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Bible Story:

Throughout the Old Testament, we have learned that God loved the Israelites, but they didn't always love and follow God's ways. When the Israelites disobeyed, God, the Father, allowed consequences to happen to them. What are some consequences your parents use when you disobey? Allow for a couple of responses.

Read Judges 6:1–4. **The Midianites were like bullies who were more powerful than the Israelites. What are some of the consequences the Israelites experienced?** (The Israelites had to hide from the Midianites. The Midianites took their food and their animals so the Israelites didn't have food.) **How do you think the Israelites felt hiding and having no food?** (Possible answers: sad, mad, discouraged, hopeless)

Read Judges 6:6. **What did the Israelites finally do?** (They cried out to the Lord.) **God loves the people that He created in His image and wants a relationship with people. The people were upset and had no peace, but God made a plan to redeem them from their troubles. The next few verses tell us that God sent a prophet to remind the people that God delivered them from the Egyptians. Why do you think God wanted the Israelites to remember that?** (Possible answers: They would know that God delivered them once and will do it again; They needed to remember the miraculous power of God.)

Read Judges 6:11–12. **Where did the angel find Gideon?** (Gideon was hiding in the winepress.) **A winepress was used to crush the grapes to make wine, but Gideon used the**

pressing machine to crush the wheat to make bread. He hid and tried to make a little bit of food for his family. What did the angel tell Gideon? (The angel reminded Gideon that the Lord was with him and that Gideon was a mighty man of valor.) **Valor means "courage." Was Gideon acting courageous?** (No.) **God knew that He created Gideon to be courageous, even though Gideon was hiding when the angel came. How do you think Gideon responded to the angel's words?** Allow responses.

Read Judges 6:13. **Gideon's response shows that He didn't really believe that God was with him. Let's see what the angel said after hearing Gideon's doubt.** Read Judges 6:14. **Do you think Gideon expected to be chosen by God to save Israel?** (No.) **God knows what He created each of us to be and to do. When we know what God wants us to do, we should eagerly do it. Listen to the excuses that Gideon gave about why he couldn't save Israel.** Read Judges 6:15. **Gideon explained to God that other more important people should save the Israelites. Do you think God should listen to Gideon or should Gideon listen to God?** (Gideon should listen to God.)

Read Judges 6:16–19. **Gideon was reminded that God would be with him, just like the name Jehovah Shammah reminds us that God is there, present with us. How did Gideon show that he wanted to believe?** (He asked for a sign and for the angel to wait while he made an offering.) **Gideon prepared a goat and some bread for that angel as an offering. Remember, before Jesus came to pay the price of sin, people had to offer the blood of an animal to cover their sin.** Read Judges 6:20–21. **Wow, the angel touched the meat and bread and fire came up out of the rock and burned up the food. Then the angel disappeared. Do you think Gideon expected that to happen?** (No.) **Did Gideon get a sign that God was talking to him?** (Yes.) **If you were Gideon, how do you think you would respond to what just happened?** Allow time for several responses. Read Judges 6:22–24. **What was Gideon's response?** (He believed and built an altar.) **In Bible times, people believed that if they saw God, they would die. The voice of the Lord reassured Gideon that he would live and that peace would be with him. Why would peace be important for Gideon?** (Possible answers: Gideon might be really scared about the battle, and peace would make him brave; Gideon needed peace to have the courage to obey God.) **Gideon wanted to remember that God chose him to save Israel and that God's peace would be with him. What name did Gideon give the altar?** (the Lord is peace, Jehovah Shalom) **Gideon had the courage to obey God. He led a small army of Israelites, and God showed up and did a miracle for them to win over the large Midianite army. Gideon had God's promises to be with him and to give him victory over the Midianites.**

Was God's peace only for Gideon? (No.) **Let's check the New Testament and see if God's peace is for us today.** Read John 14:27. **Jesus was talking to His disciples who were scared and reassuring them that His peace would stay with them even when He returned to heaven. When we say "yes" to accept Jesus' forgiveness of our sins, He is always with us, and His peace is always with us too!** Lead a cheer for Jesus and His peace. **Jesus and His peace are always with us, but it doesn't mean we always choose to let His peace calm us down. I'm sure you can all think of a time when you didn't feel peaceful and maybe you cried or had an outburst. In those times when you don't feel peaceful, you can choose to let Jesus' peace be**

stronger than fear or anger. Hold up the umbrella and demonstrate opening and closing it. **Just like opening and using an umbrella in a rainstorm, you can pray and let Jesus calm you by focusing on Him being with you.**

Jesus lived on the earth and knew that things happen and cause people to be afraid, just like in Gideon's lifetime and ours. What are some things that might cause you to be afraid this week? Allow time for several responses. **Those things could make us afraid, but we have special help this week when we remember Jehovah Shalom—God is our peace and is always with us! Instead of being afraid, you can be like Gideon and get the courage to face it because you have God's peace and presence. This week remember that Jehovah Shalom and Jehovah Shammah will help you.**

Bible Story Questions:

- **Who gave the Israelites trouble?** (Midianites)
- **What was Gideon doing when the Angel of the Lord came to him?** (He was hiding in the winepress grinding wheat to make some bread for his family.)
- **What surprise did the Angel of the Lord tell Gideon?** (The angel said that the Lord was with him and Gideon was a mighty man of courage.)
- **How did Gideon respond?** (He made excuses saying he couldn't do it.)
- **What finally changed his mind to do it?** (The Lord said He would be with Gideon and the Midianites would be defeated.)
- **What unusual thing happened to show Gideon that the Lord was talking to him**? (When Gideon put the meat and bread on the rock, a fire burned it up and the Angel of the Lord disappeared.)
- **After seeing the miracle, do you think Gideon had peace about leading the people, why or why not?** Answers will vary.
- **How can you show that you choose God's peace?** Answers will vary.

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Depending on the size of your group, have the small group do both parts A and B or assign part B to another group. Allow time for the groups to decide how they will portray what is on their card. Then gather everyone together and go through the skits as you discuss the importance of choosing peace.

  Scenario #1A: Your sibling is chosen for a special time with your grandparents while you have to stay home.
  Show what happens when you don't choose peace.

Scenario #1B: Your sibling is chosen for a special time with your grandparents while you have to stay home.
Show what happens when you choose peace.

Scenario #2A: On the school bus, some of the bigger kids call you and your friend names.
Show what happens when you don't choose peace.
Scenario #2B: On the school bus, some of the bigger kids call you and your friend names.
Show what happens when you choose peace.

Scenario #3A: At the soccer game, your team is playing an undefeated team and your best player is sick.
Show what happens when you don't choose peace.
Scenario #3B: At the soccer game, your team is playing an undefeated team and your best player is sick.
Show what happens when you choose peace.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Gather children in a large open area. Explain that you will say many different words while they move around in the area, but they must listen carefully for you to say "peace." When they hear "peace," they quietly sit down on the floor. Repeat this several times. You might want to focus on saying "p" words, such as power, pretty, puppy, Peter, etc. Remind the children that peace comes from Jesus being with them.

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Lead a Bible study and discussion of the "7 Steps to Walk in Peace" using Colossians 3:12–17. Step 1. Forgive! Holding a grudge destroys peace in the body, and peace in the soul! Step 2. Love! Don't speak bad about other people. Be peacemakers! Step 3. Be thankful! Complaining leads to bitterness and strife! It steals from peace so avoid it at all costs. Step 4. Be in the Word! Jesus is the Word made flesh. Jesus is peace. Therefore, the Word is peace. Step 5. Sing! Come to church and sing! Step 6. Attitude! Whatever you do, do it unto the Lord. Step 7. Be thankful again! Found in verse 17.

Worksheet:
Read through the directions and phrases as the children mark their choices. Let volunteers share why they marked an answer as peaceful or not peaceful. Discuss how Jesus brings peace to our lives. Have them choose two of their not-peaceful answers and write how the situations could be turned into peaceful situations. Have volunteers share their answers. On the back of their papers, have them write some reminders to pray and choose peace this week when they start to feel afraid.

Affirmation/Declaration:
I have Jesus, so I have peace.
I choose to let God's peace rule my heart.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
Peace is a rare quality in today's culture. A lack of morals and denial of the existence of God cause a plethora of problems that generate fear. When believers take the presence of God with them everywhere they go, they bring God's peace to every situation. Choosing peace over fear is a powerful testimony. Encourage the children to spread peace around their home and school. Discuss ways they can choose to bring peace and how to speak peace over people.

Missions Connections:
In Israel, shalom is both the greeting and the farewell, because they speak peace over each other as they come and go. Psalm 122:6 tells us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Take time to have the children pray for the peace of Jerusalem and that Jewish people would recognize that Jesus is the Messiah who came to save them and for them to receive His salvation.

Family Connection:
As a parent, you understand the importance of peace in the household. Talk together about times when there hasn't been peace in the house. Create some pre-emptive solutions to help choose peace and prevent the problems and situations from escalating. Make a song or a poster to remind everyone in the household to choose peace.

Prayer Points:
Explain that 2 Thessalonians 3:16 is a benediction, or a blessing spoken over people. Speak it over the group as a closing prayer, and then have them repeat each phrase.

Now may the Lord of peace
Himself give you peace
always in every way.
The Lord be with you all. (2 Thessalonians 3:16 NKJV)

Name _____

Lesson 11:God Is My Peace

Circle the words that remind you of something peaceful. Cross out the words that are not peaceful.

dogs growling

playing in the sand at a beach

riding a roller coaster

birds chirping

playing a board game

thunder and lightning

cats purring

a baby crying

watching fireworks

singing praise songs

Remember: Jehovah Shalom brings peace to your life!

Look at the words you crossed out and choose two to write in the boxes below. Then write how that situation could be turned into something peaceful.

Example: the car has a flat tire on the way to church – someone stops to fix the tire for your family and you get to church on time.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, write yourself some reminders to pray and choose peace this week when you start to feel afraid.*

ANSWERS:

Lesson 11:God Is My Peace

Circle the words that remind you of something peaceful. Cross out the words that are not peaceful. Answers may vary

~~dogs growling~~

playing in the sand at a beach

~~riding a roller coaster~~

birds chirping

playing a board game

~~thunder and lightning~~

cats purring

~~a baby crying~~

watching fireworks

singing praise songs

Remember: Jehovah Shalom brings peace to your life!

Look at the words you crossed out and choose two to write in the boxes below. Then write how that situation could be turned into something peaceful.

Example: the car has a flat tire on the way to church – someone stops to fix the tire for your family and you get to church on time.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, write yourself some reminders to pray and choose peace this week when you start to feel afraid.*

COPYRIGHT POLICY
You may make copies of Charis Kids Curriculum for use in the church and home. You are not to alter any of the teaching in any Charis Kids printed material. Please feel free to share the website information with other churches, families, and homeschool groups.

CharisChristianCenter.com/Shop
© Copyright 2023 Charis Kids Curriculum. All rights reserved