



Monthly Study Guide

PURSUE PEACE



This study guide focuses on the topic of peace, providing suggestions on how to increase peace in your family and how you can work to pursue peace with all.

Suggested studies and discussions that optimize lessons, concepts and activities from the *Encourage, Equip & Inspire* parenting manual are listed for a four-week period. Options are not listed in a daily order. Simply choose the options that best fit your family and schedule.

IDEAS FOR SPECIFIC AGES



Preschooler

This age group can be notorious for temper tantrums. Strive to be aware of your preschooler's barriers to peace—triggers and indicators that may lead to a challenging situation. Help your child learn to manage those triggers where possible. Stay calm and set the example as a peacemaker. Children this age are sponges: they are watching us closely to see how we handle situations, including their acts of defiance.



Grade-schooler

Our example, as always, continues to be crucial for this age. Let your grade-schooler see you working through a conflict peacefully with proper resolution skills. The Bible shows us clearly that certain things are right and certain things are wrong. People will have differing viewpoints on these and other matters. Show your children that it's okay to discuss these matters respectfully, standing up for what is clearly right and wrong, but it's not okay to mock and attack. Discuss real-life scenarios that require us to pursue peace as much as depends on us.



Preteen

Open and honest communication is essential for true peace in relationships. As with grade-schoolers, model peace consistently through conflict resolution and communication skills that encourage dialogue. When a breakdown in a relationship happens, help your children identify why it happened, then seek solutions. Practice empathy and forgiveness, and when needed, help your children identify how and with whom to establish boundaries.



Teen

These are dynamic years of growth and development for your child. Friendships will develop and shift; some will become well-established for years to come, while others may end abruptly. Outside influences like jobs, education, and current events will constantly be impacting your teen. Be a safe zone for your child, a refuge in the storm. Encourage your teens to have a solid foundation in God's Word and to develop a close relationship with God the Father. He is the God of peace.



WEEK 3

<input type="checkbox"/>	Each day this week, read another section of Psalm 119 . Reflect on how you are uplifted by God’s law.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue in your prayers for peace. Pray for peace within your own country and community and for wisdom for those in governing positions, as instructed in 1 Timothy 2:1-3 .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study the People of the Bible lesson “Barnabas, Man of Encouragement.” How did Barnabas behave during a time when Christians were being regularly persecuted for their beliefs? With your family, discuss ways you can edify and encourage others, just like Barnabas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write out Romans 14:19 . In the “Peace” lesson, read the Guide and Guard scripture analysis on this verse and implement any ideas that may work for you and your family. Discuss the wisdom of avoiding contentious disputes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discuss how every day we are fighting a spiritual battle. Download and print the “A for Armor of God” page from our “A to Z Bible Coloring Pages” in the Additional Resources section of our website. Once colored, display it in a prominent location.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Download and print the “Copy and Clip Wraparound Templates” from the Additional Resources section on our website. Use the armor of God template on page 6 to create a teaching tool as you discuss Ephesians 6:11-17 with your children.

Notes



WEEK 4

<input type="checkbox"/>	Read through the Shepherding the Heart lesson “Peace” again. Implement any ideas you haven’t yet that you think would benefit your family. Assess your and your family’s progress.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue in your prayers for peace. Pray for peace within God’s Church and for the ultimate peace that will exist under God’s Kingdom. By this point, you will likely notice how much more often and in how many ways you can be praying for God’s peace on a regular basis. Continue those prayers beyond this monthly study.
<input type="checkbox"/>	This week, finish reading Psalm 119 . Meditate on your love for God’s law.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reflect on why the armor of God described in Ephesians 6 is established with the gospel of peace. Discuss with your children why good footgear is important, especially for a soldier of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 2:3).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review our “Feast of Tabernacles” lesson in the manual’s Word of God section (or locate it on our website). Meditate on what true, lasting peace under Jesus Christ’s rule in God’s Kingdom will look like. What are some ways you can reflect it now?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create and present your child with a “Certificate of Peace” for completing this focused study on pursuing peace this month.

Notes
