

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn they can find rest in Jesus because he is their Prince of Peace.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 2:1-20, The Shepherds

MEMORY VERSE:

"And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6b (NIV)

SUMMARY:

When the angels told the shepherds that Jesus had been born, they said that He would bring peace. Even though we will have hard times, and sad times, if we bring our troubles and worries to God, He will bring us peace.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us peace on Earth and peace in our hearts.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

“And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.” Isaiah 9:6b (NirV)

“And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6b (NIV)

“And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6b (NLT)

“And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6b (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Split the main group in two. See which group can recite the memory verse from memory the loudest.

SMALL GROUP:

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SKIT

LET THERE BE PEACE

ITEMS NEEDED:

A hero costume for Good Man
A villain costume for Villain Man
The same cutaway box set from the lesson one skit

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

3M

CHARACTERS:

The Announcer
Good Man - A hero
Villain - A villain

Good Man and Villain Man are sitting down inside their box.

ANNOUNCER: And now, it's another episode in the story of GOOD MAN, a hero so good, so awesome, so amazing, so... look, okay, I know it's my job to act all excited and try to sell you all on Good Man, but let's face it. As good as Good Man is, he's a toy. An action figure. And he can't save you from your sins. You want my advice this Christmas? You need to receive the gift God gave you on the very first Christmas, JESUS! Who is Jesus, you ask? Why He's the WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, the MIGHTY GOD, the EVERLASTING FATHER, and the—

GOOD MAN: Hey, no spoilers, pal! We'll get to "and the" today.

VILLAIN MAN: Yeah, leave something for us, guy.

ANNOUNCER: Sorry, fellas. Just got carried away. Ahem. As our story begins today, it's Christmas Eve, and after 22 days in a box together, Good Man and his arch-enemy

Villain Man have formed an unusual bond.

VILLAIN MAN: So that's my story, Good Man. All it took was a little nudge from my evil college guidance counselor and a bad break up with my evil cheerleader girlfriend, and I found the inspiration I needed to become a super-villain.

SKIT

GOOD MAN: That's an amazing story, Villain Man! I had no idea there were evil colleges, much less that you went to one.

VILLAIN MAN: I thought about going on to evil graduate school. Maybe get an evil Masters or an evil Doctorate. But after I used my freeze ray on Peggy Lynn, I knew I had to leave school and pursue my dreams of world domination right then and there.

GOOD MAN: Seize the day, right?

VILLAIN MAN: Exactly!

GOOD MAN: Wow. It has been great getting to know the real you these last 22 days. Who would have thought we had so much in common?

VILLAIN MAN: I know! Were you really at Camp Pinewood back in the fifth grade?

GOOD MAN: Yes!

VILLAIN MAN: That's so wild! Just think, had you been in my bunk, you could have become a villain.

GOOD MAN: And if you were in my bunk, you could have been a good guy!

VILLAIN MAN: I'd have made a lousy hero, but you could have been a great villain.

GOOD MAN: You think so?

VILLAIN: Oh yeah. I can see it.

GOOD MAN: You might make a bad hero, but you're a good friend. It's a shame that starting tomorrow, we have to fight again.

VILLAIN MAN: I know.

GOOD MAN: Hey! Maybe we can convince Jimmy to let us be friends?

VILLAIN MAN: What?

GOOD MAN: We can change your image! Maybe instead of Villain Man, you could be Friend Man?

VILLAIN MAN: Friend Man? Who wants to play with Friend Man?

SKIT

GOOD MAN: I do! I think you're a swell guy, Friend Man. And you may call me... Prince of Peace!

VILLAIN MAN: What? Oh no, I don't think so.

GOOD MAN: Why can't I be Prince of Peace? It has a nice ring to it.

VILLAIN MAN: Because there's only one Prince of Peace, and His birthday is tomorrow.

GOOD MAN: You mean Jesus? I thought He was the Wonderful Counselor.

VILLAIN MAN: He is the Wonderful Counselor. He's also the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and last but not least...

GOOD MAN: The Prince of Peace? He must be a busy guy.

VILLAIN MAN: He is. But being the Son of God, He can handle it all.

GOOD MAN: I don't envy Him. All those names, all those responsibilities. I get worn out just being Good Man.

VILLAIN MAN: Everyone gets worn out. Life is hard, a never ending series of challenges. But when people trust in Jesus, they can find rest with the Prince of Peace.

GOOD MAN: That's great news for Jimmy.

VILLAIN MAN: And our Announcer.

GOOD MAN: Too bad there can be no peace between us after tomorrow.

VILLAIN MAN: Let's enjoy it while we can, Good Man. Tomorrow we go our own ways, but tonight, there is Peace on Earth.

GOOD MAN: Merry Christmas, Villain Man.

VILLAIN MAN: Bah humbug!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Pajamas

How many of you get new pajamas every Christmas? Who has ever received a set of pajamas that matches the pajamas your siblings and even your parents get? Pajamas are a popular gift item and always welcome. Who doesn't love slipping into a comfy pair of pajamas at the end of a long day, knowing that soon it will be time to get some rest?

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. In a crazy, busy world, He is the one person who can give us true rest, not just for our bodies, but our mind and our spirit. Like the sheep who follow their shepherd, when we trust and follow Jesus, we can experience true peace.

No matter how stressed you are, no matter how crazy life gets, when you trust in Jesus, the Prince of Peace, you will find true rest!

LARGE GROUP GAME

FLYING J'S

ITEMS NEEDED:

Candy canes
A Christmas tree

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose several players for this game. Each player will have a chance to toss five candy canes at the Christmas tree from 8-10 feet away to try to get some to hook onto the tree. The player who hooks the most candy canes wins.

VARIATION:

An alternate game would be to throw some plastic round ornaments at the tree without hooks and see who can get some to stick in the branches.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Better than a candy cane, or a "piece" of candy, Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn they can find rest in Jesus because he is their Prince of Peace.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 2:1-20, The Shepherds

INTRO:

I have a question for you this morning. How many of you find the holiday season to be just exhausting? Adults in the room, how many of you think the season is busier than other times of the year? As jolly and happy and fun as Christmas time can be, it's also incredibly busy! We do more shopping at Christmas, and everything we buy has to be wrapped. Our homes are busier, not just because of people stopping by but all the decorations taking up space. We're always on the run. We have to go see Christmas lights. We have to go to the Christmas program. We have to go see the Nutcracker. We have to go ice skating. We have to go to the Christmas party. We have to go caroling. We're always headed somewhere singing "Peace on Earth," but the last thing we ever find is peace!

Over the last month we've unwrapped the many names of Jesus. We've come to see that Jesus is more than just the baby in the manger scene. He is the Wonderful Counselor. We can pray to Jesus any time and anywhere and receive wisdom from Him. Jesus is the Mighty God. We can trust him because He is our Creator and our Savior. He is the Everlasting Father. We are his children, and He loves us very much. We can take any problem to Him and trust He will help us.

Today we add one more title to that. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. It's a hard thing to grasp when we're always on the go belting out Mariah Carey tunes, but it's true. On our most chaotic day this season and any time of year, Jesus is the Prince of Peace. When life is hard, when it's wearing us down, when we feel like we can't go on, Jesus is the one who can give us rest, not just for the body, but the mind and the spirit.

All through the Psalms, Jesus is described as a good shepherd. He is described as a gentle leader who guides his flock to safe pastures where they can rest and feel safe.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

It's no coincidence that on the night Jesus was born, the one and only birth announcement went to a group of shepherds tending their flocks outside Bethlehem.

READ LUKE 2:1-20

MAIN POINT:

The shepherds were having anything but a chaotic night. It was another snooze fest for them, watching the sheep sleep while they stay on guard, trying not to nod off themselves. All of a sudden there's a bright light and a host of angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and-" Here it comes! "Peace on Earth."

When the hectic moment is gone, the shepherds trade one peaceful scene for another. They find the baby Jesus resting in a manger with His mother and father nearby. The Prince of Peace had come at last, and all who seek Him as the shepherds did can find true rest, even in our wild and crazy world.

DRIVE IT HOME:

For too many people, Jesus is just part of Christmas. He's not the reason for the season. He's a baby in a manger. He's something for the kids. Try telling that to the shepherds, and to Mary and Joseph, and to the wise men. These people got to see the promise of God come to Earth. He wasn't just a baby. He was the Son of God!

Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor. As His angel counseled Joseph, so Jesus can counsel us. He can help us make hard choices and do the right thing. We can take any challenge to Him and find the right answer.

Jesus is the Mighty God. Read on in the gospels, and you'll see Him calm storms, heal the sick, turn water into wine, and even raise the dead. Jesus is our Creator. We can trust Him because He is bigger than our problems and mightier than any force we may ever face.

Jesus is the Everlasting Father. If we love Him and trust in Him, He will give us eternal life. We will dwell in His house forever.

And yes, Jesus is the Prince of Peace. If we trust in Him, we will find true rest for our bodies, our minds, and our spirit.

We will open many gifts on Christmas morning, but the greatest gift ever unwrapped is the child in the manger. Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. God wants you to receive Jesus as your Savior, and if you've never made that commitment, you can do so today. Come and give your trust to Jesus. He will give you peace every day of the year!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us peace on Earth and peace in our hearts.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is the BEST part of Christmas to you?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Isaiah 9:6b

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a few rounds of Christmas themed Name Five. Name five Christmas songs. Name five Christmas movies. Name five foods you eat at Christmas. Name five terrible Christmas gift ideas.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 2:1-20

Where was Jesus born?

To whom did God announce the birth of Jesus?

What did the angels sing?

What did the shepherds do?

Why is Jesus the Prince of Peace?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us peace in a crazy world.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is the BEST part of Christmas to you?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Isaiah 9:6b

Without putting the verse on display or looking it up, see how many kids can recite the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a few rounds of Christmas themed Name Five. Name five Christmas songs. Name five Christmas movies. Name five foods you eat at Christmas. Name five terrible Christmas gift ideas.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 2:1-20

Why did the angel visit the shepherds?

What did the angels sing?

Why is Jesus the Prince of Peace?

How restful do you feel going into Christmas this year?

How can we find true rest and peace when we need it most?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us peace in a crazy world.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

REVIEW

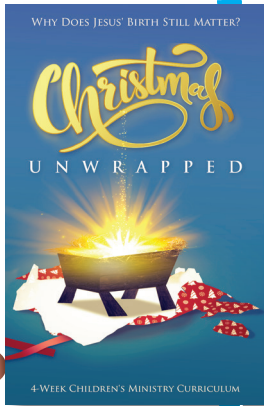
Just as the angel counseled Joseph, Jesus is the _____ Counselor.
WONDERFUL

Nothing is impossible for Jesus because he is the _____ God.
MIGHTY

Jesus is the _____ Father, whose kingdom will have no end.
EVERLASTING

Jesus is the Prince of _____ who can give us rest.
PEACE

Bonus: _____ means "God with us."
IMMANUEL



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Christmas Unwrapped Lesson 4

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: PRINCE OF PEACE



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

When the angels told the shepherds that Jesus had been born, they said that He would bring peace. Even though we will have hard times, and sad times, if we bring our troubles and worries to God, He will bring us peace. Luke 2:1-20, The Shepherds



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Take some time to enjoy a little peace as a family. Turn off the TV, turn on the lights on your tree, make hot cocoa, play some Christmas carols, or sing some yourselves. Celebrate the Prince of Peace.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did the angel visit the shepherds?
- What makes Jesus the Prince of Peace?
- How can we find true rest in Jesus?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6b (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Life is stressful, and the Christmas season is often more stressful than the rest of the year. Even in the midst of our busiest days, we can find rest in Jesus. Ask Jesus to give you and your family some peace so that you can reflect on the birth of Jesus and celebrate Him on Christmas day.



"And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace." - Isaiah 9:6b (NIV)



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Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Each week the kids will make ornaments with the week's featured name for Jesus (from Isaiah 9) written on it. These can be ball ornaments they decorate with markers or ornaments they make with craft material and string - whatever you like! At the end of the series they will have four different ornaments that say Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.