

Topic: God is Peace (1) (Lesson 33)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verses: “If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men” (Romans 12:18).

Focus: God is a God of peace. God’s Word shows us how to have peace with God and other people. Like God we can maintain peace with others by using proper words and gestures.

Practical Application: Give examples of how we can live in peace with others by using words such as “thank you,” “sorry,” and other polite expressions. Conversely, we should not use coarse or demeaning language towards another person. Our words can hurt other people’s feelings and cause problems.

Intermediate:

Verses: “And let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it” (1 Peter 3:11).

Focus: As a God of peace, God’s words and actions bring peace to people. We should not pick on people or cause problems for people. We should pursue peace and not retaliate with evil intentions.

Practical Application: Consider asking the children how they would live in peace with their siblings. Illustrate with daily examples of words and actions that do not bring peace, such as taking their siblings’ things without asking, blaming them for our problems, or having a quarrel with them about “trivial” things, etc. Conversely, they can choose not to be angry when someone does something wrong to them; they can choose not to retaliate. Illustrate with a story that highlights the nobility in pursuing peace even when someone wants to start a fight.

Advanced:

Verse: “Pursue peace with all men and sanctification, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

Focus: As the God of peace, our God has restored peace with man, even with those who were His enemies. When we are in a conflict with others, we cannot have peace and we should seek to restore peace.

Practical Application: Discuss with the children concerning a time when they said or did something they should not have to a friend or family member. Were they peaceful and happy inside when they thought about the person? Did they look forward to seeing that person again? What about when they did something that they knew hurt someone? Did they have peace? How would they restore peace in those situations? Illustrate with your own experience if appropriate. Use a story that can touch their conscience regarding not being right with someone or some matter and not having peace.