

WEEK 5

LESSON GUIDE

Staycation!

BIG IDEA

We can make peace with others.

BIBLE

Jacob and Esau Meet Again:
Genesis 32:6-21, 33:1-11

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Worship in the House!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "All The Things" (Yancy & Little Praise Party)
 - "A Great Big House of Friends" (VeggieTales)
 - "God's Family" (Life Kids)
 - "Father Abraham" (CJ & Friends)
 - "We Are Family" (KidSpring Children's Ministry)

ACTIVITY | Peace Like a River

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the song "[I've Got Peace Like a River](#)." Have preschoolers form one line and play "Rock, Paper Scissors" with a leader one at a time. You can form multiple lines if you have more volunteers so kids have more chances to play. Regardless of whether they win or lose, have each kid play once and go to the end of the line. Play until the song ends and make sure everyone has played at least once.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Show the kids how to make peace signs with their fingers, and let them dance to the song while showing the "peace sign."
- **What hand motion did you make for "rock?" How about for "paper?" "Scissors?"**
- **Did you know that if you hold up those same fingers like this, it can mean "peace"?**
- **What is peace?** Peace is when you get along with someone else and work together to fix a problem.

ACTIVITY | Tent Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** In each corner of the room, drape two long pieces of colored butcher paper to meet in the top middle of two adjoining walls, angled away from each other to form a "tent," so that each corner has a different colored "tent." Have a leader stand in the middle. The leader has to close their eyes and count to ten. The kids have ten seconds to go into a tent. The leader then calls out a color. Everyone who is under that colored tent wins! Play as much as time and interest allow.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Call out a color and have the kids run to that colored tent. Once the kids have all arrived at that color, call out another one. Play as many times as you'd like.

- When Jacob was traveling, everyone stayed in tents. There were so many tents!

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Genesis 32:6-21, 33:1-11 (Jacob and Esau Meet Again)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up for the Bible story as though it's a slumber party! Wear pajamas (have kids come in PJs, too!), have kids sit on the floor with blankets, cushions, and pillows.
- **Who remembers Jacob and Esau?** They were brothers who didn't really get along. They stopped trusting each other and they both ended up with hurt feelings. After that, they didn't speak to each other for years.
 - [Have kids put a finger to their lips to indicate silence.]
- After some time had passed, Jacob heard that his brother, Esau, was on the way to meet him. The last time they saw each other, Esau was very angry at Jacob. So, Jacob was worried that Esau may still be mad.
 - [Place hands on face and say, "Oh no!" Invite kids to follow.]
- So, he sent Esau lots of gifts before they met, in hopes that he would make Esau happy. Then Jacob prayed. Jacob asked God to help him.
 - [Have kids put their hands together.]
- The next day, Jacob woke up, ready to make peace with his brother. He didn't want to be in a fight with him anymore.
 - [Have them put two fingers up to symbolize peace, or use sign language.]
- When Jacob and Esau saw each other, they ran and gave each other a big hug! They forgave each other and were so happy to be together.

BIG IDEA | We can make peace with others.

- After this *Staycation!*, I think it is time for me to clean out this junk drawer. **What do you think?**
- Well, today I need to search in here one more time for our Big Idea. **Will you help me find it?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare an empty "drawer" filled with odds and ends, like scraps of paper, rolls of tape, keys, pens, spoons — nothing sharp or pointy! Write one word of the Big Idea on a few of these items. Invite kids to rummage through the drawer with you to find all the words of the Big Idea. Once all the words are found, put the words in order and say the Big Idea aloud for the kids, then have them say the words with you as you go around the room and shake their hands. Make sure you have kids wash or sanitize their hands afterward.
- Today's Big Idea is . . .
 - **We can make** (Go up to a kid and shake their hand.)
 - **Peace with others** (Shake their other hand so you are doing a double handshake. Have kids do this with each other as you go and shake more kids' hands and say the Big Idea.)

VIDEO | Staycation!, Episode 5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of *Cali's World*.

ACTIVITY | House of Peace

- When you have a *Staycation*, you stay around your own house, right? So, we are going to build a house together, but first, we need the blocks!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids evenly into teams. One at a time, have them run across the room, pick up a block, and bring it back to their team. Once they have all of the blocks, have them build a house. The first team to finish their house wins!*

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Give each kid several blocks and have them build their own house.*

- We built such a great house together. It takes the whole family working together to make a happy, peaceful home.
- Sometimes we argue and we don't get along. But we can learn to say sorry and do our very best to be kind to each other.
- **We can make peace with others.**

PRAYER

- Thank you, God, for helping Jacob and Esau make peace. Help us to get along with our family and friends, too. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Peace Bugs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create a bunch of yummy bug snacks! Try any of [these](#).*
- **Have you ever seen bugs around your home? What kinds?**
- Our snack makes me think about how we don't have to let others *bug us* – together, we are amazing!
- We can *bee* kind to others so that we can make peace. Making peace means that we don't stay angry or upset with each other.
- **We can make peace with others.**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pass around a stuffed animal while you talk about the Bible story.*
- In our Bible story, Jacob gave gifts to his brother, Esau. Some of the gifts were some of Jacob's animals. **Do you have any pets?**
- **Why did Jacob want to give gifts to Esau?**
- **Was Esau happy to see Jacob?**
- **Is there someone you don't get along with that much?**
- **The next time someone makes you mad, what do you think you could do to make peace?**

ACTIVITY | Peaceful Gifts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a piece of paper. Have kids decorate their paper by gluing several squares of gift wrap onto one side of their paper. Then, have them flip it over and place [animal stickers](#) on the other side. After both sides of the paper are decorated, have leaders help the kids fold the two outside flaps of the paper inward so that they meet in the middle, covering the animals. When they open the flaps, the animals are inside! (See a worked example [here](#).)*
- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Start with the animal stickers then turn the paper over and allow toddlers to decorate with dot markers, finger paints, or stamps.*
- Jacob gave his brother gifts to make peace with him.

- There are lots of ways to make peace. We don't always have to give a gift. We can make peace by saying sorry or choosing not to be angry.
- **We can make peace with others.**

MEMORY VERSE | Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

- **“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *By now your preschoolers should have been exposed to the whole verse if they've been coming out every week. Go back and have the kids sing the memory verse to the tune of [“This is the Way,”](#) but this time, have them sing the whole verse.*
- Let's sing the memory verse together!
 - **Let us do good to everyone**
 - **And especially**
 - **To those who are**
 - **Of the household of faith**
 - **Galatians 6:10**

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.*

ACTIVITY | Animals in the Sand

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill a shallow bin with sand and animal figures. Have them “walk” the animals around the perimeter of the bin and talk with them about how Jacob had sent animals as gifts for Esau.*

ACTIVITY | Backyard Bugs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Create a [bug sensory bin](#) with sand, plastic insects and bugs, small rocks, and pebbles, and magnifying glasses. Share fun facts about bugs that you know and help kids see that even bugs can be pleasant sometimes. If we can make peace with these critters, we can make peace with our family and friends!*