

Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children. (Matthew 5:9)

David and Abigail – 1 Samuel 25:1-42

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: PEACE

In our story this week, David is on the run. King Saul was chasing David and his large army of men throughout Israel. David and his men came across some shepherds and sheep in the wilderness. Even though they were very hungry, they did not harm the shepherds or take any of the meat to eat. Instead, David sent several men to greet the owner of the sheep, Nabal, in peace. They asked him to give them some sheep and supplies because they were very hungry.

Nabal was considered a mean man, and he was mean to David's men when they arrived. In Bible times, people were expected to show hospitality and kindness to travelers. That was what David and his men were expecting. Instead, Nabal said he would not give them anything. That made David very angry. He made plans to fight with Nabal and his men.

Nabal was married to a woman named Abigail. When Abigail heard how Nabal treated David, she decided to do something herself. She knew David was planning to fight with Nabal, so she sprang into action to keep the peace. She prepared vast amounts of food for David and his men. She then loaded the food on donkeys and personally delivered the food to David. Abigail apologized to David for her husband's actions and asked for peace. David agreed to not start a fight.

Abigail was a peacemaker because she offered an apology to David. David was also a peacemaker because he accepted Abigail's apology and did not fight with Nabal. A fight was avoided because two people made the decision to keep peace.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Close your eyes and imagine the word *peace* in your mind. Then imagine the word *justice* in your mind. Think of a word that will spur you to perform an act of peaceful justice. Then do it.

Come Together

Welcome to Wonder

Supplies: Class Pack—pp. 7 & 26, 9 & 24, 16 & 17; Activity Sheets—p. 7; Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD; Wonder Box; CD player; peace pole; green cloth; battery-operated candle; tape or glue

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 4) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 4). Display the Bible Verse and Faith Word Posters (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 26, 9 & 24). Place the peace pole inside the Wonder Box, and set the box on the Wonder Table. Punch out the three “Finger Puppets” (Activity Sheets—p. 7) for each child.

- Play “Celebrate Wonder” (Annual Music CD) as the children arrive. Greet each child by name and show the children where to mark their attendance.
- Point to the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 24), and invite the children to wonder about what the word *peace* means.
- Have each child assemble the three “Abigail Makes Peace” Finger Puppets (Activity Sheets—p. 7), following the directions on the back of the sheet.

Sing and Celebrate

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD, CD player, green streamers

- Tell the children there is green on the Wonder Table and green streamers because green is the color we use in church during the season of Ordinary Time.
- Play the Unit 1 song, “Make Things Right.” Let the children sing and celebrate.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you, sitting in a circle on the floor.
- Read the Bible story, “David and Abigail” (Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook—p. 94)
- Watch the video for Session 2 (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack—pp. 4, 9 & 24, 14 & 19; Wonder Box; Wonder Cube; scissors; tape

Prepare Ahead: Locate a previous Wonder Cube and lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 14 & 19). Cut out the sheep with the word “offering” on it (Class Pack—p. 4).

- Let the children take turns rolling the Wonder Cube. Have the children answer the question(s) about the Bible story.
- Place the Wonder Box on the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 14 & 19).

SAY: Today’s faith word is *peace*.

- Show the children the “Peace” poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 24).

SAY: In this unit, we are using this definition for *peace*: Living together in harmony without fighting. To be calm and know God’s presence.

- Wonder together:
 - How was peace shown in the Bible story?
 - How did Abigail make peace in the Bible story?
- Place the figure of the second sheep (Class Pack—p. 4) on the Wonder Story Mat.
- Open the Wonder Box and reveal the peace pole.

WONDER: Why would we have a pole with all these words in our Wonder Box? What do you think the words say?

Experience Wonder

Food for David (Snack)

Supplies: raisins, fig cookies, bread, cheese, figs, plates, napkins, hand-washing supplies

Prepare Ahead: Place some of each food onto a plate for each child.

Tip: Check for food allergies before serving food to the children.

- Have the children wash their hands. Give each child a plate of snacks.

SAY: Abigail prepared enough food to feed David and his men. Abigail’s actions were an act of justice as well as an act of peace. She made sure David and his men had enough to eat and did not fight with Nabal.

WONDER: How do you think Abigail knew what to do?

Peace Pole (Craft)

Supplies: empty paper towel rolls, white paper, glue or tape, pictures of peace poles from around the world, crayons or markers

- Show the children pictures of peace poles from around the world.

SAY: There are peace poles all over the world and in many languages. Some peace poles have the words *May peace prevail on Earth* in different languages around the sides of the pole. The pole can also simply say *Peace* in different languages. We are each going to make our own peace poles to remind us to always be peacemakers.

- Have the children draw pictures of people making peace around the world on the piece of paper. Give each child an empty paper towel roll. Help them glue or tape their papers around their paper towel rolls.

ASK: How many peace poles do you think there are in the world? (See *Tip below.*)

WONDER: Why do you think it is important for countries around the world to remember to be peacemakers? Why is it important for us to be peacemakers?

Tip: For information on peace poles, see: <https://www.worldpeace.org/peacepoleproject>.

Donkey Relay (Game)

Supplies: two baskets with handles, painters' tape

Prepare Ahead: Place a length of painters' tape on the floor on each side of the room.

- Divide the children into two teams, and have the teams line up behind the tape on one side of the room. The team players will work in pairs: one being the donkey and one being Abigail.
- The player who is the donkey gets down on all fours. Abigail places the basket on the donkey's back and holds it as they walk to the other side of the room. When they arrive, they say together, "Happy are the people who make peace."
- The players switch places and return to the starting line. Another pair of children repeats the process. Keep going until all of the pairs have gone.

SAY: Abigail took food to David, so there would be peace and no fighting between David's men and Nabal. It must have taken a lot of donkeys to move all the food.

WONDER: Why do you think Nabal didn't want to give food to David? What could have happened if Nabal shared his food with David? What could have happened if Abigail did not bring food to David?

Peaceful Place

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 18; Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook; finger puppets (Activity Sheets—p. 7); Problem-solving Cube from last week; suggested book: “Peace, Baby!” by Linda Ashman; soft sheep, doves, and donkeys; two baskets; sharing items (such as new/old socks, new/used pencils, and broken/new jewelry); pictures of peace poles; crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Peace Faces” Journal Page (Leader Guide—p. 18) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items provided
- Let the children separate sharing items into the two baskets—one basket for items that are new and nice to share, and one for old items that are not nice to share.
- Give each child a copy of the “Peace Faces” Journal Page (leader Guide—p. 18), and have them draw what their face looks like when they are at peace or happy on one side of the page. Ask them to draw what their face looks like when they aren’t at peace or mad on the other side.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional. Pick and choose what you want or add your own ideas.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice—Exploring Peace Through Justice

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 89, optional: Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book

SAY: A spiritual practice is something we do to connect to God. This week we talked about Abigail offering food to David so he wouldn’t fight Nabal. Abigail kept the peace by her actions. Let’s learn a spiritual practice that will help us keep peace.

- Guide the children through a spiritual practice:
 - What do you do when you feel mad? (*Cross arms over chest.*) Do you stomp your feet? (*Stomp feet.*) And refuse to eat? (*Cover mouth with hands.*) Or do you take a deep breath? (*Take a deep breath.*) Do you walk away? (*Walk in place.*) And find a quiet place to pray? (*Fold hands in prayer.*)
- Bless the children before they leave. Touch each child as you say this blessing: “May God bless you as a person of peace and fairness. Go now in peace.”
- Send home a photocopy of the Celebration Chart (Leader Guide—p. 89) with each child who did not receive one last week.

