

LESSON 2
PEACE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

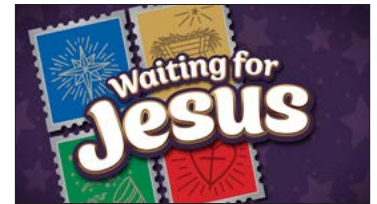
WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Our Peace**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 9; John 14**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Isaiah shares the promise that Jesus will come as a light to God's people, and this promise is fulfilled 700 years later when Jesus—the Prince of Peace—is born.**WORD OF WONDER:** Faith is being sure of what we hope for and being sure of what we do not see.
—from Hebrews 11:1

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: Where do you feel at peace?
- Curiosity Questions
- Curiosity Activity: Peace and Chaos
- God's Big Story
- Word of Wonder: From Hebrews 11:1
- Discussion Questions
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Jesus is Our Peace
- Closing Game: Peace and Light



Waiting for Jesus Elem Spotify playlist

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Our Peace

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9; John 14

WORD OF WONDER: From Hebrews 11:1

I don't know how to manufacture peace, but I have taken notice of where I usually find it. The following list is an ode to some places where I feel peace, or the absence of anxiety, concern, conflict, or strife:

- Standing next to the ocean
- Walking through my garden
- Sitting on my porch in the morning

Where do you feel the most peace? How long does that last?

These are moments I remember feeling peace as a kid:

- Up high in a tree
- Riding my bike down a slight hill
- Swinging on a porch swing in the sun

These peaceful moments have some specific conditions: There are no other people around. Or cars. Or loud noises. Or interruptions. That means the peace I feel in these moments is temporary. Because people, cars, loud noises, and so many other peace-interrupting things are normal parts of life.

Read Isaiah 9:1–7 and John 14:25–27. Isaiah writes about a peace so powerful it can't be interrupted, and it never ends. He talks about a kingdom ruled by peace. John records Jesus' promise to give a kind of peace that can't be found anywhere else in the world. We can't make it happen, but Jesus is where peace is found. That's the crux of our Wonder Truth for this lesson: Jesus Is Our Peace.

What are some moments where you experience peace?

Have you felt that kind of peace Isaiah and John describe?

—**Matt Irvine**

Pastor and Editor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The people of Judah needed peace. They were afraid of being destroyed by surrounding nations and empires, yet they were not walking with God. The prophet Isaiah warned them of impending judgment and change through a coming leader called the Prince of Peace.

WHAT?

God promised King David that his descendant would rule as king, forever. But after a series of very bad kings, God's people waited for a heroic leader. Jesus came as a different sort of king, without political connections or visible power. His kingdom brings peace.

WHERE?

Isaiah prophesied that Galilee, a rural area north of Jerusalem and Judah, would be honored by a coming leader. Centuries later and after His ministry in Galilee, Jesus spoke to His disciples about God's peace, mere hours before He was crucified.

WHEN?

Isaiah's prophecy reminded God's people that the coming Messiah would continue the reign of David's dynasty as God had promised. About 700 years later, Jesus was born as the "son of David" who fulfills the role of an everlasting king.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

The images of walking in darkness or light are also in 1 John, which says "God is light" (1:5; emphasis added). Drawing close to God means telling the truth about our need for forgiveness and for God's Son to save us.

LESSON 2 **EARLY ELEMENTARY**

Small Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Our Peace

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9; John 14

WORD OF WONDER: From Hebrews 11:1

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "**I'm curious..**" before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **What do you think peace is?**
- **When do you feel peace? When do you not feel peace?**

Kids may have different ideas of what peace is. Invite them to share freely! Then introduce this definition for peace: **Peace is a deep feeling that everything will be OK.**



Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Curiosity Activity: Peace and Chaos

What do you think peace means? Allow kids to answer freely. **Those are great answers! Peace is the calm feeling inside your heart. It's a deep feeling that everything will be OK.**

We'll do an activity to experience peace after a lot of busyness and chaos! Let's get busy and make chaos! Just do what I say:

Invite the kids to do the following:

- Turn around in a circle five times.
- Do 10 jumping jacks.
- Crab-walk across the room and back.
- Hop up and down 10 times.
- Run to touch each wall in the room.
- Sing any song you want loudly while swinging your arms.

When the kids have completed everything, have them sit down and be very still.

How did you feel after finishing all the busy or chaotic things? Allow kids to answer. **Was it hard to sit quietly after the busyness?** Allow the kids to respond. **What are some things you and your family do to relax after being busy?** Allow kids to answer freely.

Sometimes peace feels like rest or getting still when we have been busy, overwhelmed, or tired. This time of year, life can sometimes get busy. Peace doesn't mean only sitting still, it means resting with God because we trust Him. True peace doesn't just come from a quiet room. True peace in our hearts comes from Jesus. We're learning that Jesus is our peace! Today we're learning in God's big story that Jesus is our peace. Let's discover that truth together!

Make It Inclusive: Some kids may not enjoy chaos or be able to do the physical movements. You can pull them away from the "chaos" to another side of the room and give them their own challenges to do, such as tossing a ball to themselves or squeezing play dough.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, buckets (3), balls (several), blindfolds

WORD OF WONDER

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and sure of what we do not see.

—from Hebrews 11:1

Our Word of Wonder for the Waiting for Jesus series is from Hebrews 11:1. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **FAITH**—Make prayer hands.
- **IS BEING SURE**—Make a fist with one hand and put it down on your other hand (open palm).
- **OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR**—Put your fist down onto your open palm once for each word (what, hope).
- **AND SURE**—Hands on your hips.
- **OF WHAT WE DO NOT**—Hold one finger up and shake it back and forth (“No, No”).
- **SEE.**—Put your hands by your eyes like binoculars.
- **FROM HEBREWS 11:1**—Hands open like a book.

Set out three buckets in a line and have the kids line up a few feet away from the buckets. Let the kids take turns tossing the balls to get them in the buckets. Each time a ball makes it into a bucket, the kid will say the verse. Then give the kids blindfolds (or just have them close their eyes or turn around backward) and let them try again. **Is it harder to make the ball go into the bucket when you can't see? Is it harder to trust in God and have faith in Him when you can't see God or see the hope He gives?** Allow the kids to respond.

It can be hard to trust in God and have faith when we can't see. But that's what true faith is—trusting and knowing that God is with us, and that He gives us real peace—even when we can't see!

Gather the kids to discuss these questions:

- **How do you know God is with you?** (If the kids need help, offer ideas such as: I can feel His presence, I feel peace from Him, I have faith and trust, the Bible says He is with us.)
- **What is something about God that you're sure about?** (If the kids need help, offer ideas such as: God loves us, God made us, God is powerful, God is with me.)

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible; Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

Isaiah was a prophet who told people what God wanted them to know. God gave Isaiah a message filled with hope. He said that a special King would come one day, a King who would bring light to people walking in darkness. Isaiah told them this King would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Many years later, Jesus was born and He fulfilled that promise. Jesus grew up and taught His followers that He was giving them His peace, a peace no one else could give.

[Read the God's Big Story Script below from Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 and John 14:25–27.](#)

Today's story is about a special promise God made a long, long time ago. Let's start by pretending it's dark—everyone cover your eyes with your hands. It's hard to see anything in the dark, right? God's people felt like that too. They were living in sadness and needed help.

But God sent a man named Isaiah with good news! Isaiah told the people, "A light is coming!" Everyone waves their hands high in the air and says, "A light is coming!" Isaiah said a baby would be born, and He would be very special. Pretend to rock a baby. His name would be Jesus, and He would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace! The children repeat those names together slowly.

Many years later, Jesus was born—just like God promised! When Jesus grew up, He told His friends, "Don't be afraid. I give you peace." Everyone places their hands over their hearts. Jesus is our light when life feels dark. He brings us peace when we feel worried. He is our hope every day. Together the children say,

"Jesus is our hope!"

God promised to send Jesus, and He kept His promise. Jesus brings peace, light, and hope to everyone who believes in Him. God always keeps His promises, and Jesus is our hope forever.

Discussion Questions

SUPPLIES: paper (1–2 sheets)

Gather the kids in a circle. **Today we're learning that Jesus is our peace. To help us remember this, we're going to pass a sheet of paper around our circle. Each time the paper comes to you, you'll tear a piece off (however big you want!). I'll tell you to stop passing sometimes, and whoever has the paper will say the Wonder Truth: "Jesus Is Our Peace," and answer a question. Although the piece of paper is a bit different from the peace from Jesus, passing the piece of paper can help us remember that we can pass the peace of Jesus to others.** Give a sheet of paper to a kid in the circle and allow the kids to pass it around the circle, tearing off a piece each time. At various times, tell the kids to stop passing, and encourage the kid who has the paper to say the Wonder Truth and answer a question. Play several rounds until the paper gets too small to pass anymore. If needed, use another sheet of paper to keep playing until all the questions are answered.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who gave people a message about Jesus long before He was born?** (*Isaiah*)
- **How long did God's people wait for Jesus to be born after Isaiah's message?** (*700 years*)
- **Can you name one of the names for Jesus that Isaiah shared?** (*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*)
- **What is peace? What does it feel like?** (*If kids need help, offer ideas such as: the calm feeling inside your heart; a deep feeling that everything will be OK, no matter what is happening around you or how busy you are.*)
- **Share about a time when you felt at peace.**
- **When Jesus was grown up and with His disciples, what did He tell them He was leaving with them?** (*peace*)
- **Does the world always feel peaceful? In what part of your life do you need to feel God's peace?**
- **How can you share God's peace with others?** (*If kids need help, offer ideas such as: telling them about the story of Jesus, praying for them, asking God to help you share His peace.*)

God gives real peace to everyone who follows Him. We do not need to worry because God is in control, and we can have God's peace. Jesus gives us the gift of His peace in our hearts. And His peace does not end. Let's talk to God now in prayer and thank Him for giving us peace.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for giving us peace.

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: Jesus Is Our Peace

SUPPLIES: Pipe cleaners (1 per kid), ribbon (8" each), pony beads (small handful per kid), scissors (for prep), tape, paper or posterboard (4), and coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Names of Jesus Sheets \(1 set\)](#)

Ahead of time, print the Names of Jesus Sheets. Tape each one to a wall and set out paper (or posterboard) and coloring utensils on the floor or on a table by each sheet.

Today we learned that Jesus is our peace! We're going to make something special to help us remember that.



Give each child a pipe cleaner, ribbon, and pony beads. Show them how to slide the beads onto the pipe cleaner, making patterns or using their favorite colors. When finished, help them bend the pipe cleaner into a heart shape and twist the ends together. Help them tie the ribbon at the top so it can hang.

This heart reminds us that Jesus came to bring love and peace to the world.

Once the ornaments are finished, invite everyone to visit the four “Names of Jesus” stations posted around the room: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Each of these names tells us something special about Jesus!

As kids rotate to each name, let them draw on the paper what they think that name means. For example, for Wonderful Counselor, they might draw a helping hand or a friend; for Mighty God, they might draw something strong; for Prince of Peace, a heart or people holding hands.

After they visit all four stations, gather the group together and let each child hold up their heart ornament. Lead the group in a simple prayer: **“Thank You, Jesus, for being our Wonderful Counselor, our Mighty God, our Everlasting Father, and our Prince of Peace.”** Encourage them to take their ornament home and hang it somewhere special to remind them that Jesus brings peace and love every day.

Closing Game: Peace and Light

SUPPLIES: flashlight (optional)

In God's big story today, we learned that Jesus brings peace and light into the world. There's darkness in the world because of sin. Sin is the wrong things we say and do that separate us from God. We live in darkness because we have all sinned, but Jesus came to bring light and peace. Jesus can forgive our sins. Let's do an activity to remember that Jesus is our peace. I'll turn off the lights. When I turn them off, you can wiggle and jump and move and sing a loud song. When I turn the lights on, you will freeze and say, "Jesus is our peace!"

Play multiple rounds, turning off the light and encouraging the kids to move and wiggle when the lights are off, and turn the lights back on every 15–20 seconds. To make it more fun, you can use a flashlight instead of turning on all the lights, and just point the flashlight to one kid, who will freeze and say, "Jesus is our peace!" You can also give the kids specific motions or actions to do when you turn the lights off, such as skipping, crawling, or marching.

Remember, Jesus is our peace! No matter what happens in your life this week, you can have peace in Jesus.

Make It Inclusive: Some kids may not be comfortable with darkness or chaos. Provide a space away from the larger group to allow them to do a similar activity, such as make shadow puppets with a flashlight.