

LESSON 2
PEACE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

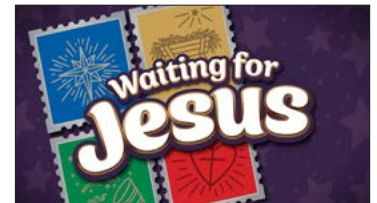
WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is Our Peace**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 9; John 14**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Isaiah shares the promise that Jesus will come as a light to God's people, and this promise is fulfilled 700 years later when Jesus—the Prince of Peace—is born.**WORD OF WONDER:** Faith is being sure of what we hope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

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Multisensory Activity: Place of Peace
- Welcome Question: Where do you feel at peace?
- Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Joy to the World (Glory to the King), Great Things (Do You Hear What I Hear)
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: King of Kings
- Blessing Your Kids

[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: 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 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large 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: Hebrews 11:1

As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be extra intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

Multisensory Activity: Place of Peace

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only, optional)

Ahead of time, if you don't plan on using the Peace Slides, print the Peace Sheets, and cut apart the pictures.

Display the Place of Peace Slide, and gather the kids. **Let's learn more about each other with a fun activity! I'll show you images, and if an image makes you feel peaceful, you can sit or lie down peacefully. If it doesn't make you feel peaceful, you can stand up and dance around for five seconds.**

Invite kids to stand up. Display Peace Slide 1. Give kids about five seconds to dance around or to sit/lie down. Then advance to the next slide. Continue through all 12 Peace Slides.

The kids will see the following images:

carnival/fair with rides

campfire

a kid sitting on a bed reading

the ocean

soccer game

kids in a classroom at school



a kid riding a bike
a kid playing in puddles
birthday party
a kid sitting in a hammock
beautiful sunset
cafeteria at lunchtime

Advance to Peace Slide 13, which shows thumbnails of each image. **I'm going to ask a few questions. After each one, turn to someone next to you, and share your answers.** Pause after each question for kids to share. When the kids are done sharing, call on several kids to share what their partners told them.



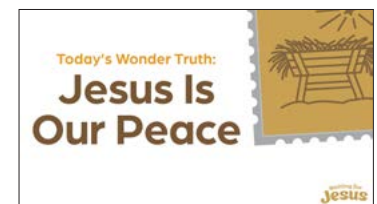
- Which picture made you feel most calm or peaceful? Why?
- Which pictures didn't make you feel calm and at peace? How did they make you feel?

Close your eyes and imagine yourself in the picture that made you feel most peaceful. Think quietly about your answers:

- How does your body feel?
- What do you notice about your breathing?

When you feel calm, open your eyes. How did you feel as you imagined yourself in that picture? Call on 2–3 kids to share.

There are some places or situations where each of us feels most calm and peaceful. The peace Jesus offers is different than how we feel in certain places and situations. The peace of Jesus is a deep feeling that everything will be OK—no matter where we are or what we are doing. And the peace of Jesus never ends! Display the Peace Wonder Truth Slide. Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS IS OUR PEACE**.



Welcome Question

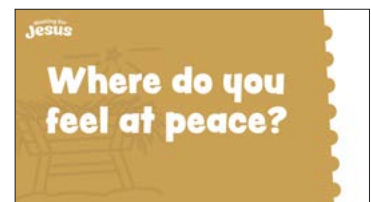
SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question.

Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

Those sound like amazing and peaceful places! Today we'll explore the idea of peace even more and learn about another message from God that Isaiah gave the people about Jesus long before Jesus was even born! But first, it's time for small group!



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

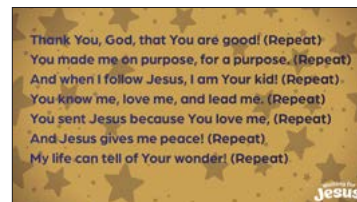
"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.) **You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.) **And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.) **You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.) **You sent Jesus because You love me,** (Kids repeat.) **And Jesus gives me peace!** (Kids repeat.) **My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You for loving us and for sending Jesus to earth so we can have true peace. Help us hear from You today. If there is anything we're worried or anxious about, we ask Your Holy Spirit to give us calmness and fill us with peace right now. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll hear about how long ago God promised to send the Prince of Peace who would bring peace to all His people. The promised Prince of Peace is Jesus, and we get to know and worship Him!

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Joy to the World (Glory to the King), Great Things (Do You Hear What I Hear)

God's Big Story

SLIDE: TITLE

As we get ready to watch our Bible story video, think about the words we heard from Isaiah. Long before Jesus was born, God promised to send a King who would bring light, hope, and peace. Jesus kept that promise completely. He even told His friends that He would give them a peace no one else could offer. While you watch, look for moments that show how Jesus brings light and peace to the world. Are you ready to see how God kept His promise?



LESSON 2 PEACE

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, cardstock (optional), tape (optional)

RESOURCES: Peace Experience It! Sheet (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print a copy of the Peace Experience It! Sheet for each kid, on cardstock if possible.

Gather the kids. Then set out coloring utensils, and give each kid a copy of the Peace Experience It! Sheet. **Before we start today's part of God's big story, I need your help! During the story, we'll hear the words *light*, *promise*, and *peace* multiple times. To help us pay close attention to the story, we need visual aids, and you get to create them!** Invite kids

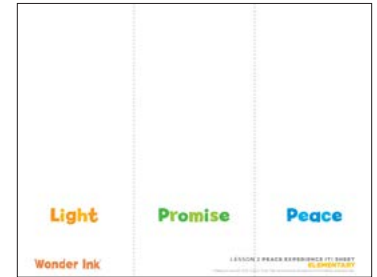
to draw illustrations of the three words on their sheet. They can draw objects, scenes, symbols, etc.—whatever they think of when they hear the words. Encourage them to keep their drawings simple and quick and assure them that stick figures are OK! Once kids finish their three illustrations, show them how to fold their papers along the dashed lines to create a three-sided pillar that stands up. If you have tape, give a small piece to each kid to close and secure the three sides.

Let's do one more thing to help us focus on today's story—let's learn signs for our three key words: *light*, *promise*, and *peace*. Teach kids these three signs, and give them a chance to practice each one:

Light—Bring both hands together (fingertips touching) at chest level. Next, as you move your hands apart (pushing them outward in an arch-type motion) spread your fingers apart with palms facing out. Your hands will end at approximately shoulder-width apart and shoulder level.

Promise—Make a fist with your left hand, and place it in front of you (around chest level). Make a “number one” with your right hand (pointer finger up with thumb and other four fingers bent into a fist), and place your right-hand pointer finger up to your lips. Next, push your right hand out toward your left-hand fist. As you do, open the fingers on your right hand, and spread your fingers as you place the palm of your right hand onto the fist of your left hand.

Peace—Place your left hand out in front of you (around lower chest level) with the palm facing up. Next, place the palm of your right hand into the palm of your left hand (as if you are holding your own hand). Next, gently part your hands, and then switch your hands, so that the left hand is now on top and the right hand is now on the bottom. Finally, push both hands in a downward motion (palms down) ending at waist level (hip-width apart).



Leader Tip: Watch online tutorial videos ahead of time to learn the ASL signs for *light*, *promise*, and *peace*. You can find them by doing a simple Internet search.

During God's big story, listen carefully for our three special words: *light*, *promise*, and *peace*. Every time you hear one of these words, you get to do two things: 1. Turn your paper so the illustration for that word is facing you. 2. Make the sign for that word. Got it? Kids respond. Let's get started! Each time you read an underlined word, pause for kids to turn that picture toward them. Then together, do the sign for that word.

About 700 years before Jesus was born, God's people living in the land of Judah had wandered far from God and His ways. Many worshiped false gods and sinned against God. Plus, they were still afraid that their neighboring countries would destroy them. It was as if they were living in darkness. They had forgotten that God is the light!

But God never gives up on His people. So, He sent a prophet named Isaiah to tell them about an amazing promise. A prophet is a person who speaks God's words to others.

God said through Isaiah, "The people who are now living in darkness will see a great light! They are now living in a very dark land. But a light will shine on them" (Isaiah 9:2).

God was making a promise that one day a light would dawn, and God's people would not be in spiritual darkness anymore! One day, they would rejoice like on a day of harvest when food is in abundance, and they would no longer feel weighed down by troubles.

Isaiah went on to tell the people more about this promise, saying, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given ... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6 NIV). "There will be no end to His great government and peace!" The promise, who would be a light to God's people, would come as a child. He would be the Prince of Peace. And His peace would never end!

For a nation of scared people living in spiritual darkness and afraid of war, this was great news! One day, a Prince of Peace would come and rule forever!

Zoom forward about 700 years. At last, the time had come for God's promise to be fulfilled. The promised child was born. He was the light shining in the darkness that Isaiah had spoken about. He was the Prince of Peace. And His name was Jesus.

When Jesus began His ministry, He told people the good news of God's kingdom—that God is in charge and the broken parts of the world are being fixed. But some people wanted Him to fight against the evil rulers to show everyone that He was a powerful King. Then one evening as Jesus ate a meal with His closest friends, He talked to them about peace.

"I leave my peace with you," Jesus told them. "I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does ... do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

Jesus knew that when their meal was over, He would be arrested and hung on a cross. He had done nothing to deserve this, and He knew it would be more painful than He could imagine.

When Jesus faced death, He remained faithful to God's plan and gave up His life without a fight. Jesus trusted God the Father in the hardest possible circumstances, and He offered His friends this deep kind of peace.

The world offers peace through strength, by threatening war or fighting back. But God offers genuine peace to His followers because they know that God is in control and will make all things right someday. God's peace is always available to His kids.

When we choose to follow Jesus, He gives us the same gift He gave His friends on that night long ago. Jesus gives us the gift of His peace in our hearts. And there is no end to His peace!

Jesus is our peace!

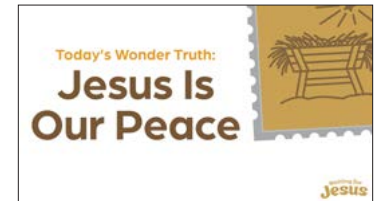
Make It Inclusive: During this storytelling, kids engage multiple senses as they listen and learn. If anyone in your group is deaf or hard of hearing, or knows ASL, ask them ahead of time if they would like to teach the signs to the group.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS IS OUR PEACE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God made an unbreakable promise called a covenant with David that his relative would be on the throne forever. Years later, God promised through Isaiah that this forever King would come as a child and be the Prince of Peace whose rule never ends. God's promises pointed to Jesus, who is the forever King, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace!



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

In God's big story, Isaiah talked about people living in darkness. Have you ever had the lights go out or been in a dark place without lights? How do you feel when you're in darkness? Allow kids to answer freely. Consider sharing your own answer too!

When the prophet Isaiah promised a special child would be born one day, he used some special phrases to describe the child. Listen to the names Isaiah used to describe the Savior God promised to send as a child and pay attention to which name stands out to you most: "And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6b NIV).

Which name for Jesus stands out to you most? Why? Give kids time to think and share. If needed, reread Isaiah 9:6.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: KING OF KINGS

Blessing Your Kids

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example

Blessing: Jesus loves you and invites you to experience Him as your Prince of Peace. Close your eyes and imagine His face as He speaks these words over you: "I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you ... do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid."

Small Group: Responding in Worship Activity

Instruct Small Group Leaders to open to the last page of their guide to finish their time with the Responding in Worship Activity.