

# Git Along!

**Virtue:** Peace—proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.

**Memory Verse:** “So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” Romans 14:19 NLT

**Bible Story:** Git Along! (Abigail intervenes) • 1 Samuel 25:16-35

**Bottom Line:** Just because you didn't start a fight doesn't mean you can't stop it.

## Plug In: Focus the Energy (Small Groups, 10-15 minutes)

### K–5<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### PREVIEW

*Note! This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both large and small group time.*

Plug In is designed to introduce children to the day's topic in a setting that gives them individualized attention from a leader and plenty of interaction with their peers. If you have enough leaders, divide kids into small groups of up to 10 children. Ideally, assign the same leader to the same group of kids for the entire year.

#### FOR LEADERS ONLY

What does it mean to be a peacemaker? It's one thing to keep to oneself, avoiding conflict if at all possible. It's another thing to get involved when others are in a conflict. Sometimes a person on the outside can see a solution easier than those who are in the midst of an argument. (1) Peace is proving that you care more about others than winning an argument. And sometimes peace is caring enough about others to help them find resolutions to their arguments. Abigail was able to help David see a peaceful solution to his problem with Nabal, thus preventing David from committing murder. (2) God is the ultimate peacemaker. We constantly find new ways to disrespect our Creator and we deserve to be punished—right? But instead of giving us what we deserve, God gives us grace, through Jesus and on an everyday basis. (3) God wants us to be peacemakers, too. (4) By helping others resolve conflict, we keep them from possibly doing things they might regret. And if we respond with love, they will see the love of God in us.

#### GET READY

For each small group, do the following:

- **Early Arriver:** Provide an interesting offering container.
- **Build a Bridge and ... :** Provide various materials that the kids can use to make a bridge. This could be two chairs with a piece of cardboard laid on top of the chair backs, thick popsicle sticks, or you could guide them to use their own bodies as bridges. Provide something that can “walk” over the bridge, such as a stuffed animal or an action figure.

- Gather the leaders together to pray before the kids arrive. Pray that each child would listen and learn the Bible truths presented during today's session. If any kids arrive before or during the prayer, invite them to participate with the leaders.

**Early Arriver Idea**

**SUPPLIES:** an interesting offering container

Review what the kids learned last week. Were they able to put it into practice this past week? Did they let go of any grudges they were holding onto or choose not to get even with someone? Invite the kids to put their offerings in the offering container.

**Build a Bridge and ...**

**SUPPLIES:** bridge supplies, popsicle sticks

Ask the kids this question: If you're in a car and you come to a river, a ditch, or a lake that you need to cross, what is usually there to help you do that? (*A bridge*) Instruct the kids to build a bridge out of whatever materials you've chosen to provide. (If you've chosen to let kids make a bridge using their bodies, they can face each other, bend at a 90-degree angle, and link arms.) When the bridges are complete, let kids test them out by placing a small object atop the bridge.

**WRAP UP**

**LEADER:** "You guys are great architects! [*Transition*] **When we're in large group, see if you can figure out what bridges have to do with today's Bible story.**"

Lead your group to the large group area for worship and videos.

# Git Along!

**Virtue:** Peace—proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.

**Memory Verse:** “So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” Romans 14:19 NLT

**Bible Story:** Git Along! (Abigail intervenes) • 1 Samuel 25:16-35

**Bottom Line:** Just because you didn’t start a fight doesn’t mean you can’t stop it.

## Power Up: Engage the Heart (Large Group, 20-25 minutes)

### *Especially for K–5*

#### PREVIEW

Power Up is designed to engage children in worship in a large group setting. Music, prayer, and an innovative approach to the Bible story are always a part of this interactive time.

#### FOR LEADERS ONLY

What does it mean to be a peacemaker? It’s one thing to keep to oneself, avoiding conflict if at all possible. It’s another thing to get involved when others are in a conflict. Sometimes a person on the outside can see a solution easier than those who are in the midst of an argument. (1) Peace is proving that you care more about others than winning an argument. And sometimes peace is caring enough about others to help them find resolutions to their arguments. Abigail was able to help David see a peaceful solution to his problem with Nabal, thus preventing David from committing murder. (2) God is the ultimate peacemaker. We constantly find new ways to disrespect our Creator and we deserve to be punished—right? But instead of giving us what we deserve, God gives us grace, through Jesus and on an everyday basis. (3) God wants us to be peacemakers, too. (4) By helping others resolve conflict, we keep them from possibly doing things they might regret. And if we respond with love, they will see the love of God in us.

**LEADER and KIDS:** [*Impress*] “Making peace doesn’t make you weak.”

**LEADER:** “Let’s pray.” Power Up: Engage the Heart (Large Group, 20-25 minutes)

**Power Up: (Large Group, 25-30 minutes)**

**Opening Announcements (Worship Team – 2 minutes)**

**Worship Time (10 – 12 minutes)**

**Video Lesson –Drop It (10 minutes)**

**Prayer (2 minutes) - Worship Leader Prayer**

**Worship Leader:** “God, we know You want us to live in peace with other people and that You want us to help others live peacefully, too. Please give us the wisdom to know when and how to help others live peacefully. Help us to be peacemakers even if we didn’t start the fight. Thank You, God. Amen.”

*Dismiss children to their small groups.*

# Git Along!

**Virtue:** Peace—proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.

**Memory Verse:** “So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” Romans 14:19 NLT

**Bible Story:** Git Along! (Abigail intervenes) • 1 Samuel 25:16-35

**Bottom Line:** Just because you didn’t start a fight doesn’t mean you can’t stop it.

## Catch On: Make the Connection (Small Groups, 25-30 minutes)

\* If you don’t have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1. Activity #1 is also particularly good for children who need to move in order to stay engaged (not just for boys).

\* **1. We Didn’t Start the Fight (review the Bible lesson / great for boys / application activity)**

**SUPPLIES:** “Peace or No Peace” (Activity Page)

Ask the kids to pair up. (You can be a partner if you have an odd number of kids.) Tell them to face each other and stand about eight inches apart. They should stand on one foot while putting their hands up in front of themselves. Kids will keep their balance by holding onto each other’s hands and holding each other up. Each time you read one of the non-peaceful scenarios, one of the partners should take a small step backward (they can use both feet to do this) and then regain their balance on one foot. Eventually the partners will be too far apart to hold each other up for balance.

After that happens, read the next set of scenarios, the “peaceful” scenarios. But this time, the kids will start out as far apart as they can while still keeping their balance. Each time you read a peaceful scenario, one partner should take a small step closer to the other partner, eventually bringing them back together.

**LEADER:** “Was it easier to keep your balance with your partner when you were close together or far apart? (*Close together*) Just like when I read peaceful scenarios to you, and you got closer together, when there’s peace between friends and family members, it brings them together—sort of like a bridge connects two things that are apart from each other. Remember the bridge we made before going to large group? Being a peacemaker is like a bridge. A peacemaker connects two people who are fighting by helping them make peace with each other.

“Who was the peacemaker in our Bible story today? (*Abigail*) **[Apply] God wants us to be peacemakers. He wants us to bring peace wherever we can and as often as we can. That means that [Impress] just because you didn’t start a fight doesn’t mean you can’t stop it.** Abigail didn’t start the fight between Nabal [NAY bal] and David. But she didn’t want anybody else to get hurt, so she decided to be a peacemaker and stop the fight. What did Abigail do to make peace? (*She took David and his men some food; she talked with David and reasoned with*

*him; she encouraged him to overlook Nabal's rudeness, reminding him of God's plan for his life.) [Apply] Do you think God wants YOU to be a peacemaker? (Pause for responses.) Have you ever been a peacemaker by helping anyone be friends again after an argument?"*

## 2. Run and Write (*memory verse activity*)

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, paper, markers, tape ( Please use white board if provided)

Guide kids to find this month's memory verse, Romans 14:19, in a Bible. Tell them to read the verse to themselves. (Read the verse to kindergartners and first graders.) Ask if anyone has memorized the verse. If so, give them the opportunity to recite it out loud, without using their Bible.

Divide kids into two teams. Instruct each team to line up, one kid behind the other, at the end of the room opposite the wall where the tear sheets are taped. Place a marker on the floor beneath each tear sheet. Explain that kids will take turns running to the tear sheet and writing the next word of the verse on it. For instance, the first runner will write the first word of the verse, then replace the marker on the floor. The second runner will write the second word of the verse, and so forth, until the group has written the entire verse, including the address. Tell them they can help each other in two ways: they can keep their Bibles open to the verse if they want (but the Bible must remain where everyone is lined up), and team members can help each runner know what word to write. The first team to write the verse correctly wins. (Be ready to help kindergartners and first graders know what to write and how to spell the words.)

**LEADER:** "You guys did a great job of helping each other. When you helped the people on your team, you helped them succeed. Being a peacemaker is kind of like this game we just played. **[Apply] When you help someone make peace, whether someone is trying to pick a fight with you or whether the conflict is between other people, you are helping them to succeed in life—you are helping them to do what God says to do in our memory verse.** So remember, **[Impress] just because you didn't start a fight doesn't mean you can't stop it."**

## 3. Peace-Full Artists (*application activity / Bible lesson review*)

**SUPPLIES:** "Which Words?" (Activity Page), markers, craft supplies

Give each kid an Activity Page and a marker. Guide them to read the instructions on the page and do the activity. Be ready to explain any words on the Activity Page that are unfamiliar to the kids. Walk beginning readers through the entire process.

Then instruct kids to use the supplies provided to draw, color, or create what they think "peace" looks like. Encourage kids to be as creative as they want. Some may draw a picture of a happy family or a quiet meadow. Some kids may be more abstract with their interpretation of what peace looks like. Tell kids to write the word *peace* somewhere on their project.

As kids are working on their art projects, you may want to ask these questions, to further review the Bible story and to make application:

- What did Abigail take with her and offer David in order to make peace with him? (*Food; bread, meat, raisin cakes, fig cakes*)
- What did Abigail say to David to persuade him not to fight Nabal [NAY bal]? (*She asked him not to pay attention to Nabal because Nabal was behaving foolishly, not to let Nabal's rudeness get to him; she encouraged him not to let anger get the better of him, that he would regret it later.*)
- **[Apply] What are some ways you can help others to make peace?** (*Pray for them, be a true friend to both parties, not take sides, encourage them to listen and talk.*)
- Between Abigail, Nabal, and David, who do you think was the most powerful over their situation? (*Abigail, because she was able to persuade David and stop the fight between David and Nabal.*)

**LEADER:** “Abigail was a peacemaker. She knew how to apply God’s instructions in Romans 14:19. Which words from our Activity Page did you choose to describe yourself? Are you a peacemaker, like Abigail? Do you tend to start arguments, like Nabal? Or are you somewhere in the middle? You don’t necessarily start fights with others, but you don’t do anything to try to stop a fight, either, like David. **[Impress] Just because you didn’t start a fight doesn’t mean you can’t stop it.** God created peace for a reason. When we have peace, we can think and talk and get things done. When we’re in conflict with people, there’s not much room for thinking, talking, or getting things done. Arguing and fighting causes us to pull against each other, instead of working together, to get the things done that God wants us to do. There will always be situations in life that need peacemakers to intervene. In Abigail’s case, she was able to save her home and her husband. You never know who or what you may be able to save by being a peacemaker! **[Apply] What could you do to try to make peace if two of your friends at school are fighting?** (*Give kids time to think and answer.*) **What could you do if someone in your family, like a brother or sister or cousin, acts like Nabal or David?”** (*Pause for answers.*)

**[Personalize] Tell kids about a time you were able to help people make peace. Or tell them about a time when someone helped you make peace. How did God use you? What did you learn from this experience about making peace?**

#### *Optional Club 56 Grade Discussion Questions*

If you lead Club 56, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Now that you are one of the oldest kids at your school, how can you be an example to younger kids of what it means to be a peacemaker?
- Complete this sentence: “It drives me crazy to see \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ always fighting. I wish they could get along.”
- Honestly, what would you have done if you were David and someone mistreated your friends like his men were treated? Put it in today’s times; would you use technology to strike back and/or clear your name? If so, how? If not, could you use cell phone, computer, etc., to initiate peace? How so?

#### 4. Where Two or More Are Gathered (*pray*)

**SUPPLIES:** none

Divide kids into groups of two or three. **[Apply]** Comment that a powerful way to help someone become a peacemaker is to pray for him or her. Tell them to spend a minute or so praying for each other, asking God to help the other be a peacemaker whenever possible. Close the prayer time with a refrain prayer. Pray a phrase and pause, giving the kids time to repeat the phrase after you.

**LEADER:** “Dear God ... thank You for creating peace ... and for teaching me about Your peace ... Help me to be a peacemaker in my own life ... and in the lives of others ... Remind me that just because I didn’t start a fight ... doesn’t mean I can’t stop it ... Help me to do whatever I need to do ... to live peacefully with people ... Amen.”

#### **WRAP UP**

Bring together all the groups in your classroom so the Leader can conclude the session with a review. Be prepared to distribute this week’s GodTime

Distribute the GodTime cards.