

God Gives Peace and Courage in Persecution!

Memory Verse: John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Main Teaching: God gives peace in persecution **Word Up:** The Holy Spirit gives peace and courage

Supplies:

- Word Up Visual – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for "Trinity Song" and "He is God" - Worship (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for "Trinity Song" (cefpress.com)
- Glass jar, glass pitcher, cookie sheet or 9x13 pan, red food coloring, water, dish soap– Object Lesson
- Memory Verse Visual – Memory Verse (Resource Pack)
- Sticky notes – Memory Verse
- Recording for "Peace I Leave with You" – Memory Verse (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Missionary Visual – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Prayer Notebook – Small Group
- Memory Verse Token John 14:27 for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Word Up / Worship
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Memory Verse
- 10 min – Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group Wonder Time

INTRODUCTION

It did not take the disciples long to face persecution for sharing the Gospel. Christians today may also face persecution. But through the Holy Spirit God gives peace and courage to those who have trusted in Him.

This **Growth Narrative** lesson does not focus on the trials of persecution but on the peace that can exist in the midst of them and the courage God gives to face scary circumstances. Throughout the club hour the saved children will learn that they are part of something much bigger than just the club they are in. They will understand that they are members of the Church and can help Christians around the world who are being persecuted by praying for them.

The following concepts should be clearly conveyed during the club hour:

- **Man:** Suffering—Persecution is being treated badly because of what you believe. You don't have to be afraid because God is with you, will help you and give you peace.
- **The Church:** The Church is called the Body of Christ because the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head and those who believe in Him are members.
- **Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit gives boldness to tell others about Jesus.
- **Prayer:** God wants Christians to pray for each other.



SMALL GROUP

Follow the Leader Beat Game

The Leader makes up a four beat tapping pattern (like clap, snap, clap, snap). They do the pattern once and then everyone does it together 3 times. Then you pick a new leader. If you have older kids, keep the beat going with no breaks between leaders. For younger kids, you can stop in between leaders so they can make up their pattern.

It is easy to follow someone who is a good leader. Today we are going to learn more about the Holy Spirit – he is our leader and guide.

WORSHIP

“Trinity Song”

“He is God”



WORD UP!

“The Holy Spirit gives peace and courage!”

Do you remember from last week the name of the Helper God gives to those who have believed in Him? (*Allow response.*) God the Holy Spirit is the Helper! Remember God is one God in three persons. One of those persons is God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps God's children with many things. One of the things He can help with is to give peace. Peace is having calm and joy on the inside from knowing and trusting God even when things that are going on are hard. Another thing the Holy Spirit can help you with is courage—facing danger calmly and willingly even though you may be afraid. Say with me, **“The Holy Spirit gives peace and courage!”** (*Say with children.*) We will talk more about this in club today!

CLUB RULES

Review the Up Rules reminding the kids that following the rules helps everyone be able to feel safe and learn.

OBJECT LESSON

Fear Bubbles

Materials Needed: glass jar, glass pitcher, cookie sheet or 9X3 pan, red food coloring, water, dish soap
Demo can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEVmqcPyZWQ>

What you do: Before presenting the object lesson, fill the jar with warm water (about one third of the way full) and a few squirts of dish soap and secure the lid tightly. Fill the pitcher with cooler water. Set the jar on top of the cookie sheet or pan to catch all overflow liquid.

What you say: (Begin shaking/swooshing the jar with the water/dish soap as you talk.) "Have you ever felt afraid or worried about something? You're just not sure if you can get everything done that you need to get done. Or you're afraid that a family member is going to get sick. Or maybe you're worried that you are going to fail a test." (begin to shake the jar more violently to create more bubbles) "And you get worried and worried, and the more you think, the more worried you get. And pretty soon, you feel a little bit like this (hold up jar to show the bubbles filling all the empty space) - you are all filled with fear and worry."

"What are you going to do? How are you going to get all the fear and worry out? Some people try to take deep breaths or try to think about something different and distract their brains with something else. But the fear doesn't go away, because we cannot get rid of fear on our own. We've been talking about how the Holy Spirit is our helper. He is the only one who can bring true peace! In these times when we are filled with fear, we can stop to pray and tell the Holy Spirit that we need a peace only He can bring." (Begin to remove the lid from the jar.) "We can ask the Holy Spirit to fill us up with his love." (Put a few drops of red food coloring in the pitcher of water to represent God's love.) God promises to always fill us up with his love when we ask! And as the Holy Spirit starts to fill you with love," (pour red water into jar with bubbles) you become filled with the peace of knowing that He takes care of you, and loves you, and you don't need to be worried or afraid. He washes all that fear and worry out!" (The jar will begin to overflow as the red water fills the jar and the bubbles come out the top.)

"Now, how do you keep the fear and worry out? The Bible says to be "filled with the Spirit." We've been talking the last few weeks about how the Holy Spirit is our Helper. But how do we stay filled with the Spirit? There are two things we can do to let the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with God's love and wash away all fear and worry and replace it with His peace. First, we can stay away from the things of the world that bring fear. Things like scary movies, or friends who like to talk about scary things, or even certain social media platforms that bring fear into our hearts and minds. The second thing we can do is think on the things that are good, and loving, and true. The things that we learn in Good News Club and the truths that we learn from the Bible. These truths bring peace! **Word Up! 'The Holy Spirit gives peace and courage!'**



MEMORY VERSE

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

INTRODUCTION

Has anyone ever given you something then tried to take it back? How did you feel when he did that? (*Allow responses.*) In our verse today we hear about something Jesus gives that He will never take back. Listen closely to see what that is.

PRESENTATION

(Read verse from visual with children.) This verse is found in the New Testament—the second part of the Bible. It is in the book of John, chapter 14, verse 27. Remember this is called the reference. John is the fourth book in the New Testament and was written by a man named John who was one of Jesus' disciples. The first four books of the New Testament all talk about Jesus' life when He was here on Earth, His death, and His resurrection. We call this group of books the Gospels. Let's make sure our visual says the same thing as my Bible. *(Read verse from Bible while children follow along on visual.)*

EXPLANATION

When you read the Bible by yourself at home, one of the ways you can find the meaning of a verse is by reading the verses around it. In this verse Jesus was speaking to His disciples the day before He would die on the cross. The disciples still didn't know or understand that Jesus was going to have to die but Jesus wanted to tell them and encourage them so they would be ready when it happened. One thing He told them about was the coming of the Helper—God the Holy Spirit.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you—The peace Jesus was talking about is having calm and joy on the inside from knowing and trusting God even when things that are going on are hard.

Not as the world gives do I give to you—There are things in this world that promise to give peace and joy and get rid of problems. They might make you feel better for a little while but their peace doesn't last. But the peace God gives does not come from anywhere or anyone else but Him and it is a real peace that lasts.

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid—Having God's peace on the inside does not mean there will be peace in the world around you. Bad things will still happen in this sinful world, but you don't have to be worried or afraid because God is with you. God the Holy Spirit gives peace and also gives courage when you are afraid. Courage is facing danger calmly and willingly even though you may be afraid. Peace and courage are two gifts God gives those who are His children!

APPLICATION

Saved: If you are God's child, He can give you peace and courage even when you have problems. The Bible doesn't say life will be easy—sometimes life might even be harder because you believe in Jesus—but God is with you and will give you peace and help you have courage to face your problems. Say with me, **"The Holy Spirit gives peace and courage!"** *(Say with children.)*

Unsaved: If you are not a child of God, you do not yet have the peace and courage that God gives. You can have God's peace and the help of the Holy Spirit to be courageous when you are a child of God. You can become God's child today!

INVITATION



Do you know that you have sinned? Do you know that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin? Have you made the decision to put your trust in Him? The Bible says in Acts 16:31 *"Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."* When you believe in Jesus, trusting that He died on the cross for your sins, you will be saved – rescued from sin's punishment. God will change you on the inside, helping you love Him and obey Him each day. Will you turn from your sin and believe in the Lord Jesus today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you called on Jesus for the very first time today, or you want to talk to someone more about doing that, please show me by raising your hand. If you raised your hand, please meet me *(designate location)* and I'll show you more from God's Word how you can be saved.

REPETITION

“Cover-Up”

Say the verse together with children. After each repetition, allow one child to cover a word with one or more sticky notes, depending on the length of the word. Have the children say the verse again. Continue allowing children to cover a word then having the class say the verse together until they are saying it entirely from memory.)

Sing Memory Verse Song *“Peace I Leave With You”*

ACTIVITY

True or False

Sometimes it is hard to tell if things are really true. Here are some statements. If you think the statement is true, stand up. If you think it is false, sit down. (Just do as many as you have time for, but be sure and ask #9)

1. Goldfish sleep with their eyes open (true, they don't have eyelids)
2. Hippo milk is pink (false, the actual milk is white, but hippos secrete an oil that can make the milk appear pink if it mixes in with the milk)
3. Some carrots are purple (true)
4. Giraffes and people have the same number of neck bones (true – they each have 7 neck vertebrae, but a giraffe vertebrae or bone could be up to 10 inches long)
5. The Unicorn is the national animal of Scotland (true)
6. There are two parts of the body that can't heal themselves (false – just one, the teeth)
7. A is the most common letter used in the English language (false – E)
8. Coffee is made from berries (true – berries turn from green to red, they are picked, processed, dried roasted and turned into coffee. Coffee beans are not really beans)
9. The only way you can get to heaven is by believing in Jesus (true)

We know that everything in the Bible is true – it really happened. Archeologists continue to make discoveries that prove that what is in the Bible is true.

MISSIONS STORY

John Cook

Part 2

Do you remember what happened to John? (*Allow response.*) He had been in an orphanage for a while but when he was nine years old he was adopted. John now had a family that loved him and took care of him. His new parents were nice and he was very happy in his new home. Not long after he was adopted, in the year 1943, John's family moved from cold Michigan to warm, sunny Florida. He liked living in Florida. He even became good friends with Elmira Mende (*MEN dee*) who lived across the street and liked to play with John and his new brother Lynn.

But John was still missing something very important. He had not yet believed in Jesus as his Savior. On Sunday mornings John, Lynn and Elmira rode the city bus together to church in downtown Miami. But when John got older, he decided to stop going to church and Sunday school. How would he hear about Jesus now? (*Allow response.*)

When John grew up and finished school, he got a job working on big airplanes and joined the U.S. Navy Air Force Reserves. John had many questions about God and the Bible. The Bible says the punishment for sin is separation from God forever. John knew he was afraid of dying so he tried to forget about it by going out with friends and having fun. But the questions kept coming back. Where would he find the answers?

A lady living in Miami named Mrs. Morrison loved to tell people about Jesus. She liked to hand out little papers called tracts that told about Jesus*. She would give these tracts to the people who rode the city buses.

(*Show a CEF tract to the kids*)

One day she handed a tract that told how to believe on Jesus to a woman

named Mrs. Mende. Do you remember that name? (*Allow response.*) She was the mother of John's friend Elmira. After Mrs. Mende read the tract, she believed in Jesus to be her Savior from sin. And God changed her life.

Soon her daughter Elmira also believed in Jesus to be her Savior. Then Elmira remembered her friend John Cook. She had not seen him in many years.



Elmira called John and reminded him that she used to live across the street from him in Miami. She asked John if he would come to her house the next Tuesday. John agreed, and when he got to her house they went for a walk. Elmira told John she had asked Jesus to be her Savior and God had given her a new life. John listened very carefully because he was looking for answers about God. Look at these four people. Each person told one person about the Lord Jesus! Who told *you* about the Lord Jesus? (*Allow response.*)

The next Saturday evening Elmira and John went to a church where about 200 young people were gathered for a Youth for Christ rally. The young people sang songs about God, salvation and Jesus. By this time John knew he had a problem with sin and was searching for a way to fix the problem. He and Elmira attended a Tuesday evening Bible study, Youth for Christ rallies, and church on Sunday mornings. John wanted to trust Jesus as Savior but he still didn't understand how.

Then one night in the year 1952, during special meetings at church, the

Youth for Christ director sat down with John and read Romans 10:9-10 from his Bible (*read from Bible*). He explained these verses to John, explaining that he needed to trust that Jesus took his punishment for sin. That night, John believed in Jesus as his Savior! God the Holy Spirit helped John understand

that God would forgive his sin because of what Jesus had done for him. When John walked out of the church that evening, he knew his problem of sin was gone. He had new life in Christ!

But what would this new life mean? How would his life change?

**SMALL GROUP / WONDER TIME****“Hard Situation Discussion”**

Our verse today talked about having God's peace when we are afraid or troubled. What are some situations kids your age deal with that make them afraid? Is there anything you are dealing with right now? Let's write those in our prayer notebook and pray for them.

DISMISSAL

Hand out memory verse token to each child and encourage them to memorize the verse and bring the token back completed next week. Remind the kids when they are afraid that they can ask the Holy Spirit for peace.