

Saved by the Abigail

Bible Story: Saved by the Abigail (Abigail intervenes) • *1 Samuel 25:1-35*

Bottom Line: Prove you care about others by being part of the solution.

Memory Verse: “So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build each other up.” *Romans 14:19, NIRV*

Life App: Peace—proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

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

Focus the energy on today’s Bible story in a Small Group setting with an engaging discussion question and an interactive opening activity.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that the kids in your group would start to see themselves as part of the solution. Ask God to bring solutions to their minds and to give them the courage to start taking action. Pray for the confidence to lead kids as they discuss how they can be part of the solution and prove they care about others.

1. Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: An interesting offering container

What You Do:

Greet kids as they arrive and encourage them to place their offerings into the container. Ask them about their week, and ask them to share how they have been making peace with others this month.

★2. Solution Storm

What You Need: Cotton balls, painter’s tape (provided)

What You Do:

Lay a line of tape down the middle of your area and split the group into two teams. Encourage kids to have a 60-second “snowball” fight with the cotton balls. After the time is up, notice that it looks like a snowstorm your area. Brainstorm ways to fix that problem, guiding the conversation until kids decide to clean up the area.

What You Say:

“Well, that is a great solution to a messy problem! **[Transition]** Let’s head to Large Group to hear about someone else who came up with a great solution to a very tricky problem!”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

Make the connection of how today's Bible story applies to real life experiences through interactive activities and discussion questions.

★1. Solution Superhero (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: "Solution Comic Book Panels" Activity Pages, colored pencils (provided)

What You Do:

Give each child an Activity Page, and make sure everyone can reach the colored pencils. Encourage kids to draw a comic book scene of today's Bible story complete with dialogue and action as they think it might have happened. The first and last panels are filled in so kids can get a good idea of what to do. After they're finished, allow kids to share their stories.

What You Say:

"Great graphics skills, everyone! I really loved seeing how each of you imagined the story. We know that basics of what happened, but sometimes it helps us connect to the story when we use our imaginations to fill in the details. Abigail really was like a peacemaking superhero. Instead of standing by while her family was in danger, she boldly stepped into action! She was ready to be part of the solution. While Nabal was ready to make war, Abigail was ready to make peace.

[Apply] "There are lots of ways to be part of a problem—maybe you're always getting out of hand when your teacher has to step out of the room, maybe you are always ready to get your annoying little siblings into trouble, or maybe you're just-this-close to getting angry with a friend because you think that they are trying to tease you. But it's better to be part of the solution! You can help your friends calm down at school, work with your siblings to make things better at home, or listen carefully to what your friends say to you. These are great ways to **[Impress]** prove you care about others by being part of the solution."

★2. Solution Scramble (application activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: "Scramble Cards" Activity Pages (provided)

What You Do:

Hand out "Scramble Cards," and give kids time to read what the cards say. Ask them to think about whether their card shows a problem or a solution. When everyone has decided on their card's category, tell them to stand up and scramble around the room, calling out either "Problem" or "Solution." Whenever they get near another person, they need to compare cards and find out if their cards go together—if they have a problem and its peaceful solution. (Each card only has one match.) Once each match is found, the partners should sit down together back at the circle. If you have too few kids to use all the cards, select pairs ahead of time so that all cards in play have their match.

What You Say:

"All of these solutions mean going out of your way to show you care about someone. They all do something about a problem, even if it's technically not your problem in the first place! Abigail could have decided that Nabal's problem with David was not her business and could have stayed out of it. **[Apply]**

Sometimes we just want to ignore a problem or hope it goes away on its own. We don't want to do the work of an extra chore for our family or stay after class a few minutes to thank a teacher or be the only one who keeps in line at practice when everyone else is going crazy. It's easy to think that these are their problems. But choosing to help is a way to **[Impress]** prove you care about others by being part of the solution. You're proving that you care about your parents and teachers and coaches, and you're proving that you care about the ones who are caught up in the problem, too." **[Make It Personal]** *(Share a time when you chose to do more than you had to in order to be part of the solution and make peace in a situation.)*

3. Solution Stretch Bridges *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: Notched craft sticks, plastic lacing, scissors, markers, Bibles

What You Do:

Look up the verse together and see if anyone can say it by heart. Guide the kids to write the words of the verse on notched craft sticks, a few words per stick (so that you have 9-12 sticks with words). Then, show kids how to tie the sticks together, end-to-end, with the verse in order by looping the plastic lacing into the notches of the craft sticks and tying them together. When finished it will look like a bridge.

What You Say:

"These look like a bridge that could stretch over a pretty big gap! **[Apply]** See, peace is what connects us from a problem to the solution. When we work to live in peace and build each other up, we can solve anything! **[Impress]** Prove you care about others by being part of the solution."

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Gather the group and talk about how problems and solutions are opposites. Introduce other opposites such as hate/love, hurt/healing, anger/peace, and sadness/joy. Discuss which words are the problem and which are the solution. Tell them to put out their left hand for the problem and their right for the solution. Encourage them to do this while you pray this prayer, widely attributed to St. Francis.

What You Say:

[Apply] "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hate, let me show love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Thank You, God that we can be part of the solution. Amen. **[Impress]** Prove you care about others by being part of the solution!"

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **PEACE** and God's character, as shown through God's big story

When sin entered God's magnificent paradise, our relationship with Him was broken. God's love for us was so great that He was willing to sacrifice to restore the relationship. God proved He cared about peace when He sent His Son to pay for our sins.

Peace is part of God's character. He wants us to reflect peace in our relationships with others. **Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.**

Peace is more than just "not fighting" and saying the right things to keep people happy. Peace is living in a way that shows you care more about others than about being right. It's about building strong relationships through mutual trust.

A person who lacks peace may have an argumentative spirit or feel like they always need the final word or may just seem like they're angry all of the time. An attitude like that often leads to broken relationships with others.

When our relationships are broken, we often find ourselves avoiding other people. We know when we need to work at a relationship, but it's easier to ignore what's going on and sweep it under the rug. Working at the relationship is hard work. It will cost us something. It will take time, swallowing our pride, and often it will mean walking away from the chance to prove we're "right."

But peace is worth the effort.

This month, let's think about how:

(1) God demonstrated peace by sending Jesus to pay the price for our sin, which allowed the chance for our relationship with Him to be restored.

(2) The Bible challenges us to reflect this kind of peace by working towards reconciliation with others.

(3) As we show peace in our own lives, we build our relationships on trust, which in turn makes achieving peace easier during those times when we mess up.

This week, we're discovering:

In **1 Samuel 25:1-35**, Abigail intervenes when her husband picks a fight with King David. Abigail immediately knew what was happening and made a plan to present gifts to David and calm his anger. Her quick action promoted peace between the two men.

Our Bottom Line is: **prove you care about others by being part of the solution.** Peace is sometimes about stopping an argument before it can escalate into something worse. Creating peace between two other people will take time and energy.

Our memory verse this month is: **"So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build each other up."** **Romans 14:19, NIV** When friends are fighting, do all you can to encourage peace between them. Avoid gossip and taking sides. Help them find a peaceable solution so everyone can remain friends.



I ask for food for my master David, who has been a good friend to you.



Why should I give this David food? I barely know him or you, either! **GET OUT!**

THE SERVANT STOPS TO TALK TO ABIGAIL.

ABIGAIL DECIDES TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

ABIGAIL PACKS FOOD FOR DAVID AND HIS MEN.

DAVID'S ARMY MARCHES TOWARD NABAL.

ABIGAIL FINDS DAVID AND MAKES PEACE.



What to Do:
Make one copy on white paper for each kid.

Everyone on your soccer team is fooling around when your coach told you to run drills. The coach is helping another group, while your team is really getting out of hand.

You choose to obey your coach and run drills just like he said, and you decide to see if you can get Ashley and Braden to do them with you.

Your little brother really wants a cookie, but he can't reach the plate. He's starting to cry. You want to give him a cookie, but you don't know why your dad made cookies and set them out. You think that they might be for the bake sale tomorrow.

You ask your dad if your brother can have a cookie. When he tells you that the cookies are for the bake sale tomorrow, you take your little brother outside and play with him for a while so your dad can put the cookies away.

Your friend Megan says something unkind about your other friend Lizzie. You don't know if it's true, but it's pretty hurtful. You know Lizzie would feel awful if she heard it.

You refuse to talk badly about Lizzie with Megan and invite them both for a play date, where you discover you all like the same music and same flavor of ice cream.

What to Do:

Print on colored paper and cut apart. Make one set for each Small Group.

Scramble Cards

April 2015, Week 4, Small Group 2-3
©2014 The reThink Group, Inc. All rights reserved.

Instead of paying attention to what Ms. Wilcutts, your art teacher, is talking about, most of the class starts squishing the paints out all over the table. It's really messy, but it looks like fun. You notice that the teacher is talking louder and louder and she looks upset.

You listen to Ms. Wilcutts and put your painting things in the center of the table. After the rest of the class goes to recess, you volunteer to help clean up the mess.

You see the brand new kind of cereal that's been in all the commercials online in your grocery store as you're shopping with your family. It has your favorite TV character on the box and has a cool toy inside. Your parents say that they won't buy it because it has too much sugar. You feel really upset because you have been looking forward to trying this cereal. You want to make the rest of this shopping trip miserable for everyone.

You take a deep breath and keep shopping with your parents. When they ask you what kind of fruit you'd like to pick out for your lunchbox, you cheerfully decide between bananas and oranges.

Your sister wants to watch *Spy Dogs: Canines Undercover*, your brother insists on seeing the new behind-the-scenes show about theme parks, and you were hoping to watch the football game highlights. None of you can agree.

You suggest playing your family's favorite board game instead of watching a movie and ask your parents to help you set out some snacks.

What to Do:

Print on colored paper and cut apart. Make one set for each Small Group.

Scramble Cards

April 2015, Week 4, Small Group 2-3
©2014 The reThink Group, Inc. All rights reserved.