

WEEK
TWO
JUNE 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Give Peace a Chance
Live in Peace With One Another /
Saul and Barnabas
Romans 12:18
(Supporting: Acts 9:26-28)

PRELUDE: Setting the Tone for the Experience
See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Live in peace with one another.

SMALL GROUP

10 MIN SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction
Early Arriver
Opening Activity

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

As you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did.
Philippians 2:5, NIRV

LARGE GROUP

30 MIN STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways
WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God Opener

MONTHLY VIRTUE

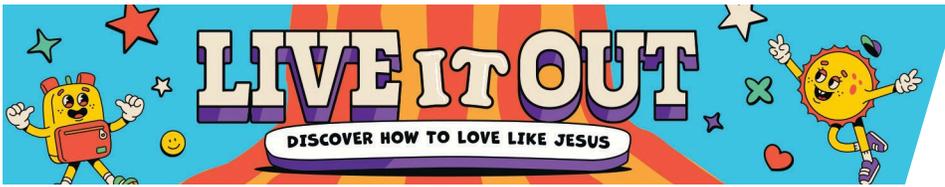
Live It Out—Discover how to love like Jesus

SMALL GROUP

25 MIN GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Live in Peace With One Another /
Saul and Barnabas
Romans 12:18
(Supporting: Acts 9:26-28)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Live It Out—Discover how
to love like Jesus

BASIC TRUTH

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I want to be treated.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! It's another great day here at [name of your environment]. Turn to the person next to you and give a thumbs-up if you're ready for some fun! *(Pause for responses.)*

"All summer long, we're learning what it means to 'live it out.' There are lots of ways that we can show Jesus' love to other people. When we do that, we can make a huge difference in the world around us!

"In just a minute, we'll check out a story from the Bible that shows us an important way that we can live out the love of Jesus, But first, it's time for another summer-camp-style competition! If you were here last week, you know that we have two teams: the red team on this side of the room *(reference the red side)*, and the blue team on this side *(reference the blue side)*.

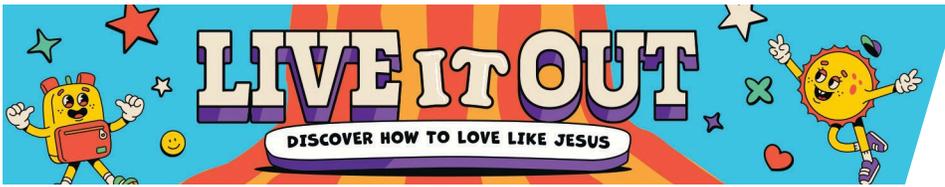
"Today's game is called: Crab Soccer. Sounds fun, right? We'll need these beachballs to play.

Worship Leaders bring out the plastic bins or laundry baskets full of beachballs.

"For this game, you'll try to kick the beachballs across the tape line and into the other team's side. But this is Crab Soccer . . . so of course you have to play like a crab! You'll move around on your hands and feet—but on your back!

Demonstrate—or get one of the kids or Small Group Leaders to demonstrate.

"You'll scurry around the beach here like a crab and use your feet to kick the beachballs. Just be careful, though, that you don't kick anyone else!



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10 MINUTES

Watch carefully where you're going. And you can only do crab-WALKING, not crab-RUNNING. Understood? *(Pause for responses.)*

"When the buzzer sounds, the team with the fewest amount of beachballs on their side wins a point for that round. We'll play a few rounds and see which team scores the most points overall!"

"First, though, everyone make sure you're on the right side of the line. If you were on the red team last week, you're on the red team again. If you were on the blue team last week, you're on the blue team again. If you haven't played yet or you're not sure, then wherever you're sitting right now, you're on that team. If you need to switch sides, go ahead and move now. *(Pause.)*

"All right—I think we're ready. You may now get in crab position. *(Pause.)* Let the Crab Soccer begin!"

AUDIO: FUN BEACH MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "SURFIN' U.S.A." BY THE BEACH BOYS)—FOR EACH ROUND

When the game begins, Worship Leaders roll/toss the beachballs into the room, making sure to distribute them evenly among both teams to start.

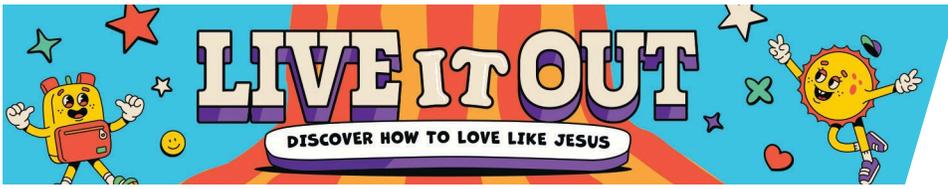
Play several rounds of the game, about 30 seconds per round. Remind the kids to crab-walk (not crab-run) and look out for each other. At the end of each round, look around to see which side has fewer beachballs. Wave the flag toward that team's side to indicate that they won the point. (If you can't tell an obvious winner, it's fine to have a tie.)

Keep track of both teams' points on the dry-erase board. Before you start each round, tell the kids closest to the center line to move to the back of their section so that another group of kids can start the game closest to the line.

"Way to go, teams! You did great! You can roll those beachballs over to our friends here on the side. *(Reference the Worship Leaders.)*

Worship Leaders put the beachballs back in the plastic bins/laundry baskets and move them out of the way.

"Now it's time for us to sing and worship God. But you don't have to stay in crab position. Go ahead and stand up on your feet!"



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

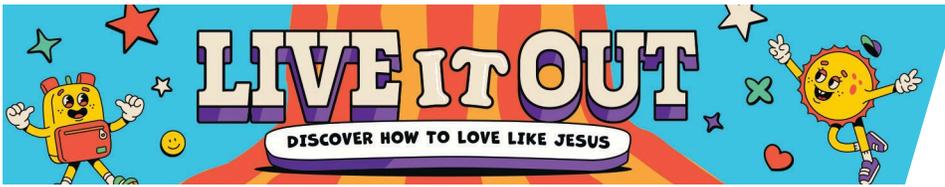
WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey RidgeKids! Are you ready to make some noise? Come on—jump to your feet! Our first song is all about worshiping God with everything we've got. It says, 'I'll shout it out, tell the world what You've done.' We're not just singing—we're celebrating how GOOD God is. Let's show Him how much we love Him—sing it loud!"

VIDEO: "AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS" LIVE LYRICS

"You all brought the energy! That was some awesome praise. Now, let's take a deep breath together... (pause for breath) and get ready to focus on something even more personal. Our next song reminds us of who we are because of who God is. You're not just a kid in this room—you're a child of God. Let the words sink in as we sing 'Who You Say I Am.' This is your time to worship with your heart."

VIDEO: "WHO YOU SAY I AM" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO

WORSHIP LEADER: "That was beautiful. Thanks for singing and worshiping from your heart. Now let's pray and thank God for loving us and calling us His children."



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25 MINUTES

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everybody! I’m so glad to be with you today! You know, this time of year is great for camping, but it’s also good for doing something else . . . watching movie blockbusters! On a super-warm day, there’s nothing like sitting in an air-conditioned movie theater with a bag of popcorn and box of sour candies and watching the latest superhero movie.

Optional: mention a current blockbuster playing in movie theaters near you.

“Which got me thinking: How well do you think you know some famous superheroes? (*Get responses.*) Okay, I hear you, but let me ask you . . . do you know enough to name their archenemy? Their fiercest rival?”

“Let’s see if you can do it. On the screen, the name of a hero will appear on the left side. Turn to your neighbor and tell them who that hero’s rival is. I will then reveal the answer on the right. See if you get it. Let’s try it out!”

Each set of heroes and rivals is two slides: A is just the hero, B has the hero and the rival. Show the A slide and give kids a chance to respond. Show the B slide to see how many of them said them correctly.

Comment on them or give the kids hints if you see them struggling to answer. Have fun with this. It’s a set up for getting kids to think about the tension of what it means to live in peace with one another.

SLIDE: HERO/RIVAL #1A & 1B

SLIDE: HERO/RIVAL #2A & 2B

SLIDE: HERO/RIVAL #3A & 3B

SLIDE: HERO/RIVAL #4A & 4B

SLIDE: HERO/RIVAL #5A & 5B

SLIDE: HERO/RIVAL #6A & 6B

SLIDE: HERO/RIVAL #7A & 7B

SLIDE: HERO/RIVAL #8A & 8B

“Well done! Some of you really know your blockbuster movie characters. One more question?”

SLIDE: QUESTION MARK

“Who are we missing? Who is a hero and archenemy pair you would add to this list?”

Allow for responses.

“There are a lot of heroes and villains, aren’t there? It’s amazing that we can remember all these characters from movies, TV shows, and books who are always fighting and trying to get the best of the other person.”



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “All that fighting might make for a good storyline in a movie or book, but just imagine living like that! I don’t know about you, but all of that fighting and arguing would be absolutely exhausting—which makes me wonder. Why do we as humans spend so much time arguing with each other? Why can’t we figure out how to live in peace with one another?”

“Maybe it’s because that when it comes to peace, we might think it’s just the absence of fighting or not arguing. Like, if everyone would just STOP fighting, we could have peace! But maybe there’s more to it than that? Maybe there’s something we can do create and keep peace, something more active than just not fighting and ignoring the problems we have with each other. But if so, what does that look like?”

“These are important questions for us to think about. Thankfully, we have the most amazing place we can find some answers. Well, it’s not really a place . . . but a book filled with other books, letters, poems, and stories. Of course, I’m talking about the Bible. The Bible is a collection of writings about people and their relationships and interactions with God. God inspired people to write down what happened so other people like us could learn from them as we experience God for ourselves. Let’s see what we can find in the Bible to help us answer our questions about peace.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Our series this month is all about what it means to Live It Out and love like Jesus. And if one of our goals in life is to get to know Jesus and to love like Him, then learning to live in peace with one another is a huge part of that! I’ve got a great story to help us out, but I need the help from two volunteers and the rest of you, too!”

Communicator chooses two volunteers, one for Saul and one for Barnabas. Have them wear classic biblical costumes like robes.

“Alright, after Jesus’ death and resurrection, the good news about Jesus began to spread. Many people were putting their faith in Jesus . . . but not everyone was really excited about this, especially this guy.

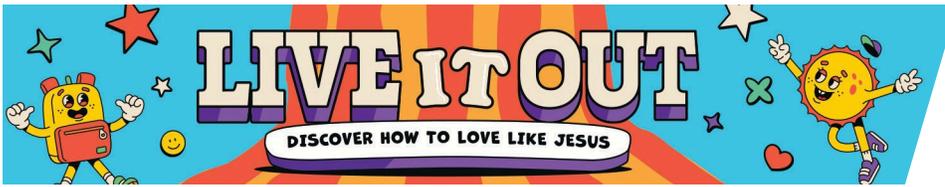
Communicator brings the Saul volunteer centerstage.

“Saul—who was also known as Paul—was a devoted Jewish man who believed he was doing God’s work by putting a stop to the message of Jesus and His followers. But while Paul was on his way to Damascus to arrest even MORE Jesus followers so he could slow down the message of Jesus even further, he was met by none other than Jesus Himself who spoke to Paul in a vision and turned Paul’s entire life around!”

Communicator helps the Saul volunteer briefly relive the moment (bright light, falling down, voice of Jesus, etc.).

“Paul went from being against Jesus and His followers (*thumbs down on volunteer*) to being one of the most devoted followers of Jesus you could imagine (*thumbs up on volunteer*)!”

“Now, you might be wondering . . . how could this happen? Why such a drastic change? But remember, Paul was very devoted to God. He THOUGHT he was doing God’s work by stopping what he believed was another false message from just another false prophet. It wasn’t until he met Jesus on the road that day that Paul realized he, Paul, was the one who was wrong, and Jesus was the truth!”



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“So, Jesus got a hold of Paul’s life on the road and led him into Damascus where he met a disciple named Ananias. God used Ananias to help restore and take care of Paul. Then Paul went into the synagogues and started to tell EVERYONE that Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Savior!

“Now, does anyone see any irony based on the original reason Paul was headed to Damascus?

Allow for responses.

“Right! He was headed to Damascus, at first, to ARREST followers of Jesus! And NOW he was trying to make more of them! He had started out trying to stop people from talking about Jesus, and now HE couldn’t stop talking about Jesus! The exact opposite of what Paul first set out to do was happening!

“Well, after some time in Damascus, Paul started to get into trouble because he was sharing the message of Jesus, so Paul escaped and went back to Jerusalem, where he had come from in the first place. “This, however, was when a problem arose. Check this out from the book of Acts . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 9:26 (NirV) and read.

When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the believers. But they were all afraid of him. They didn't believe he was really one of Jesus' followers.

Direct the volunteer playing Saul to walk toward the seated audience. Encourage audience to respond in fear.

“Think about this . . . Saul tried to join up with other followers of Jesus . . . but they were what? *(Responses)* Afraid! This is where you come in, audience. Pretend you are the believers and show me how you were afraid of Saul! *(Kids in audience respond as afraid of Saul.)*

“Why do you think they were afraid?

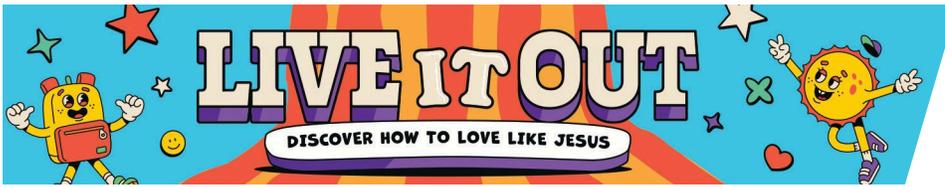
Allow for responses.

“Sure . . . maybe the believers thought Paul was just trying to get close to them so he could arrest them or something worse. It was hard for them to believe Paul was really a changed man. But check out what happened. *(Bringing over Barnabas volunteer.)* This guy happened.

Open the Bible to Acts 9:27 (NirV) and read.

But Barnabas took him to the apostles. He told them about Saul's journey. He said that Saul had seen the Lord. He told how the Lord had spoken to Saul. Barnabas also said that Saul had preached without fear in Jesus' name in Damascus. (To volunteer)

“Barney, you’re a good dude! Seriously. *(Directing)* Barnabas took Paul and brought him to the others, and Barnabas stood up for him. He gave his story and shared about what the Lord had done for him. And check out the response.



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Open the Bible to Acts 9:28 (NirV) and read.

So Saul stayed with the believers. He moved about freely in Jerusalem. He spoke boldly in the Lord's name.

"Isn't that amazing?! Barnabas helped bring peace between Saul and the rest of the church in Damascus, and because of this, the message of Jesus continued to grow." *(Directing the Saul volunteer)*

"Now, later on, Paul would sit down and write various letters to different churches. We have several of these letters included in the New Testament of our Bibles. In one of them, called Romans, Paul wrote these words:

Open the Bible to Romans 12:18 (NirV) and read.

If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can.

"Who helped Paul *(pointing to Paul volunteer)* live at peace with the believers? *(Allow responses.)* Right, Barnabas! *(Pointing to Barnabas.)* And Paul wrote that living in peace with others is a way of life, not just as a one-time deal. This whole story, and the story of the church, would be very different if Barnabas hadn't worked to make peace. And Paul wrote that we are to live this way with one another, too.

"Give our volunteers a hand!"

Dismiss volunteers back to their seats.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "The good news is we're not alone when we're trying to love like Jesus. God is at work in each one of us to make us more like His Son. When we put our faith in Jesus and follow Him, God sends the Holy Spirit to live WITHIN us! And peace is actually a gift that comes from God's Spirit . . . Paul wrote about that later on in another one of his letters. We can ask God to help us live in peace and bring peace wherever we go!

"When you find yourself in a tough spot or a tense moment, maybe try pausing and taking a breath. Then pray and ask God to give you the kind of peace only God can give. And when you see someone who is hurting, ask God to help you bring peace to their life. It may look like talking to them, being a listening ear, or asking a trusted adult to help you out.

"When you know Jesus is with you, you can Live It Out and work toward living in peace with everyone!"

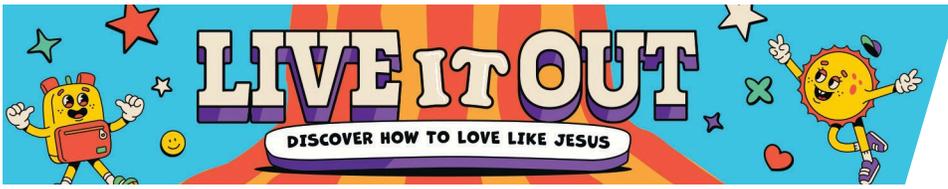
WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "After this, SAUL . . .

Host moves behind the Saul costume.

" . . . traveled all over, sharing the good news about Jesus.

Hand the suitcase to the Host.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

“He started many new churches, and he ended up writing letters to those churches that we can find here in the Bible. (Hold up Bible.)

“In Saul’s letter to the Romans, he wrote this:

Open the Bible to Romans 12:18 (NirV) and hand it to the Host to read.

HOST: *If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can. (NirV)*

STORYTELLER: “That’s so good, [Host’s name]. Can you read it again?”

HOST: *If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can. (NirV)*

STORYTELLER: “Think about how Barnabas helped to make peace between Saul and the believers in Jerusalem. That’s a great way to show the love of Jesus. “Here’s what we need to remember today:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Live in peace with one another. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER, HOST, AND KIDS: “Live in peace with one another.”

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host steps out from behind the costume,

WHAT’S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “You know, when Barnabas helped Saul, he wasn’t just being nice. He did something for Saul that ended up changing history!”

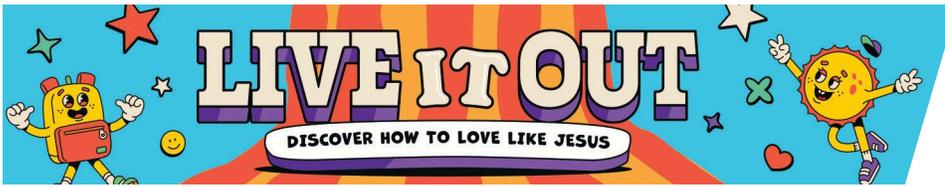
STORYTELLER: “You’re right, [Host’s name]. Since Barnabas made peace for Saul, the other Jesus-followers accepted Saul and believed that he had changed. And because of THAT, Saul went on to start churches all over and share the good news about Jesus.”

HOST: “When we trust in Jesus, we have God’s Spirit living inside us. God’s Spirit helps us to live like Jesus and share His love with others. And you know what?”

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

“With Jesus, we can help change the world!”



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SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

STORYTELLER: "Each and every day, God is working in our lives to make us more and more like Jesus in the way we think and act."

HOST: "If you want to live in peace, you can ask God to help you make choices that will LEAD to peace. That could mean that you stop and take a deep breath before you say something mean or unkind."

HOST: "Or, if you're not sure how to bring peace, you could talk about what's going on with your parent or another adult you trust."

STORYTELLER: "It feels good when someone makes peace with us. So if we live in peace, that's a great way that we can *[Basic Truth]* treat others the way we want to be treated."

HOST: "And it's a great way to 'live it out!'"

STORYTELLER: "So true. Let's pray."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "Dear God, thank You for the way You helped Barnabas to bring peace for Saul. He made a big difference for Saul just by being his friend! God, it's not always easy for us to live in peace with others, but we know that it's something You've called us to do. We know that it's a way that we can show Your love to others. Please show us how we can do that in our own lives today. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP