

Sunday, November 1, 2020

## Adaptations for Ages 3–5

- Instead of doing the “Playing with Food” activity, ask the children what their favorite food is, what foods they eat only at special times of the year, such as holidays, and how they share food at home.
- Use the “Jump and Shout” activity and let the students do the actions while you say the words. Or mute participants so that they can say the words aloud with you and do the motions.
- In the “Hearing the Story” section, use the play-dough shapes and cotton-ball sheep as props so that the children have something to look at while you read the story.
- Use the “Friendly Greetings” activity from “Exploring God’s Grace” section as is.
- Optional: “A Place for Sharing” activity, if all children have a parent or caregiver nearby who is willing to help with this activity. They can use regular paper instead construction paper and you can also skip the contact paper if it’s not available. This makes it a one-time use place mat. If you don’t have help of parents or caregivers, skip this activity all together.
- If you are able, email GN 2 ahead of time to parents or caregivers and ask them to print this coloring page. Allow the children to color it while you ask the wondering questions.
- Close with the blessing found in the “Loving and Serving God” section.

## Adaptations for Ages 5–10

- Open the session with the “Praying” section.
- Use the “Preparing to Hear the Story” section as is.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as is, but remember to invite someone in advance to portray Abigail.
- Use the “Claiming God’s Grace” section as is.
- For the “Praying God’s Grace” section, share your screen if you have an electronic copy of GN2so that you can show the prayer to the children as you read it aloud.
- For “Loving and Serving God,” instead of having the children repeat the phrase aloud, ask them to repeat the action as you say the phrase aloud.
- Close by blessing the children by saying, “Go in peace to make peace wherever you can. And know that the grace of God goes with you.”

Sunday, November 8, 2020

## Adaptations for Ages 3–5

- Give the children three minutes to gather jars from around their home. Then ask the children to show what kinds of different sized jars they have found.
- Use the “Jump and Shout” song to get the wiggles out. Encourage the children to do the movements in the song, but they do not have to sing along with you.
- Share your screen and watch the YouTube video “Making a clay pot hd.avi” as a group.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as is.
- Use the “Acting It Out” activity from the “Exploring God’s Grace” section.
- Ask the children to draw their own version of the story; as they work, ask the wondering questions from the “Coloring Page” section.
- Close with the following blessing for each child: “(Name), God cares for you. Go in God’s grace.”

## Adaptations for Ages 5–10

- Open with the “Praying” section.
- In the “Preparing to Hear the Story” section, write the names “Elijah” and “Elisha” in a document on your computer and share your screen with the children instead of writing the names on newsprint. Then do the rest of the discussion as is.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as is.
- Use the “Reflecting on God’s Grace” section as is.
- Use the wondering questions from the “Celebrating God’s Grace” section.
- Ask the children to share if they ever received something they didn’t expect but needed. It may be helpful to provide an example of your own. Ask the children to create a card to give to someone who needs care. This could be a shut-in in your congregation or a family member they haven’t seen in a while. Make sure to send the completed card to the person in need.
- Close with the following blessing for each child: “(Name), God is always with you. Show God’s love and help those in need.”

Sunday, November 15, 2020

## Adaptations for Ages 3–5

- For “Welcoming and Guided Play,” ask each child to find whatever Bible they have in their home. Have each child show and tell about their Bible. If they have a favorite picture or story from it, they can share that as well. If they don’t have a favorite, they can share something they like about this Bible.
- In the “Transitioning to Story Time” section, use the “Helping God” poem and ask the children to do the motions with you.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as is.
- Talk about how Naaman had to wash in the river seven times. Ask the children how would they feel if they had to take seven baths? Ask the children to think about other things they could do seven times, such as bouncing a ball, hopping on one foot, singing a song, and so on. Have each child share something they could do seven times.
- Ask each child to share something they can thank God for in their lives. After each child shares, have everyone say, “Hooray, God!”
- Close by blessing each child “(Name), tell others about God! Go in God’s grace.”

## Adaptations for Ages 5–10

- Use the “Praying” activity, but instead of standing in a circle, just have children stand where they can still see the screen.
- Use the “Preparing to Hear the Story” section as is.
- In the “Hearing the Story” section, instead of having the children use GN 1, ask the children to find a plain piece of paper to record in their own words what one of the characters might have said.
- Use the “Reflecting on God’s Grace” section as is.
- In the “Claiming God’s Grace” section, suggest that each child has people in their life who have shared their faith with them or told them about Jesus or about stories from the Bible. On the back of their paper from the “Hearing the Story” section, ask each child to draw a picture of one such person who has shaped their faith. Encourage them to write next to their picture what that person said to them.
- Instead of creating story sticks in “Celebrating God’s Grace,” have children get another sheet of paper and divide it into six equal sections (folding the paper might help to create sections). Then ask the children to draw the story in cartoon style, putting one picture from the story in each box. If the boxes end up out of order, ask the children to sequence the boxes with numbers so that they match up with the story.
- For “Praying God’s Grace,” have the children share names of people they know who are ill or suffering. You can make a list of those names in a document and share your screen with the children so that they can all see the names. Then leave the document on your screen as you do the repetitive prayer together.
- Remind the children that they can be like the young girl in the story who did something small but kind that helped Naaman in a big way. Encourage each child to look for some act of kindness they can do this week wherever they are.
- Use the prayer and blessing found in the “Loving and Serving God” section.

Sunday, November 22, 2020

## Adaptations for Ages 3–5

- Instead of pretending to make a meal in the “Welcoming and Guided Play” section, ask the children to share what their favorite meal is and what they would do to make that meal.
- Use the “Follow Me” activity, but instead of hugging a neighbor’s shoulder, have them wave at another person.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as is.
- Follow the “Practicing Peace” activity as is.
- For the “Coloring Page” section, if parents or caregivers are able to print the coloring page (GN 4) have the children color it. You may want to email parents or caregivers ahead of time about printing the coloring page.
- Use the “Loving and Serving God” section as is.

## Adaptations for Ages 5–10

- Instead of writing the words *prophet, vision, peace, fairness, God’s ways, justice, shared, stood up, and kind* on boxes, just have them on your shared screen and ask the children to draw with they think of when they hear those words. Then have children write down those words spaced out on a sheet of paper and cut out each word, making flash cards.
- During the “Praying” section, have the children share their pictures with one another before you pray.
- As you read the story, have the children hold up the flash card they made as you read that in the story.
- Use the game from “Celebrating God’s Grace,” but instead of rolling a ball, take turns sharing compliments. Invite each child to choose the next child who will receive the compliment.
- Use “Praying God’s Grace” section as is.
- If you can contact parents or caregivers ahead of time, ask them to print GN 2. You can then have the children color it in the “Extra Activity” section. If children don’t have a copy to color, ask what they would put in the speech bubble above Micah’s head.  
Close by blessing each child: “(Name), go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

Sunday, November 29, 2020

## Adaptations for Ages 3–5

- Ask each child to find one stuffed animal to share with the group and use it during the “Hearing the Story” section.
- Use the drawing activity from the “Welcoming and Guided Play” section.
- Use the wondering activity from the “Transitioning to Story Time” section.
- Use the “Hearing the Story” section as is.
- Use the “Playing with the Story” activity in the “Exploring God’s Grace” section as is.
- Instead of drawing what peace might be like using GN 1, have the children take turns sharing what peace might be like and then watch the video “What Does PEACE Feel Like?”
- Talk about Advent; let the children know that Advent has four Sundays, and that this Sunday is the first one in Advent. If you have an Advent wreath, show it to the children and count the candles and light or turn on the first one.
- Close with the echo prayer in the “Loving and Serving God” section.

## Adaptations for Ages 5–10

- Ask each child to draw their own peaceful scene of a river with trees, rolling hills, fields of flowers, and so on, instead of creating a group mural
- Use the movement prayer from the “Praying” section. When it says look away from the circle, ask the children to turn away from their screen, and when it says to face into the circle, ask the children to look toward their screen.
- Use “Preparing to Hear the Story” and “Hearing the Story” as they are.
- Ask each child to choose an animal or two from the story to add to their peaceful scene drawing from the beginning of the session.
- Use the “Claiming God’s Grace” section as is.
- Explain that we are all called to take care of animals. Share the endangered species list <https://www.worldwildlife.org/species-on-your-screen>. Pick two or three animals and click on their pictures to learn more about them. Read Isaiah 11:9 and talk about ways we can care for and protect the earth, plants, and animals.
- Optional: if your group is very passionate about helping endangered species, you may want to have the children draft a letter to your session or board asking them to consider using some mission funds to sponsor an animal through World Wildlife Fund.
- Encourage the children to think of where they want peace. Lead them in the prayer in the “Loving and Serving God” section, giving each child a chance to pray for peace.  
Close with the blessing.