



YOUNGER CHILDREN (K-4TH GRADE)

Peace & Global Witness Offering and the Table of Peace

Lesson Objectives—

At the end of the lesson, the learner will be able to

- identify a table of God’s people
- tell a story about a particular table of peace
- draw a table of a gathering of people

Resources and Equipment—

- Newsprint or black/white board
- Markers or chalk/dry erase markers
- Bibles
- Copies of Activity Sheet “Table of Peace” on white cardstock for each participant
- Markers/crayons
- Clear tape

Setup—

Table and chairs for coloring

Gather—

15–20 minutes

Entry Activities—

Telling the Story Over and Over Again

Setting a Table

Opening Prayer—*Open with this prayer or one of your own.*

Gracious God, throughout the ages you have been faithful and have provided for your people. May we continue to tell the story of your mighty acts and how you gather your people at tables of plenty and peace. **Amen.**

Telling the Story Over and Over Again—

Gather in a circle with the children. Tell them that you are going to play a game that repeats a story over and over again. Children may be familiar with a game “I’m Going to Grandma’s House.” This is a similar game in which the first person starts off by saying, “We are going on a journey and I’m bringing something that starts





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with the letter A, an apple.” Tell the children that you will provide a letter when it’s each person’s turn. Each one must name an item beginning with the designated letter. The next player will repeat what the first one is bringing and add an item beginning with the next letter you will provide. As you give each child a letter, write it on a sheet of newsprint or black/white board for all to see. (See letters in next paragraph.)

The game will continue with each person repeating the item that each person before them named, beginning with the first person and ending after they’ve added their own item. With younger children, you may need to repeat the items as a group if children have trouble remembering the whole sequence. Continue until all the letters are used.

Use these letters in this order:

T-A-B-L-E-O-F-P-E-A-C-E

If there are more than 12 participants, begin with the letters G-O-D-S. If there are more than 16 participants, add the letters F-O-R-U-S at the end.

After you have completed the game, make slash marks (and an apostrophe, if necessary) between the letters and read the phrase aloud:

“TABLE / OF / PEACE”

or “GOD’S / TABLE / OF / PEACE”

or “GOD’S / TABLE / OF / PEACE / FOR / US”.

Tell the children that just as they told a story about a journey over and over again, adding new parts to the story, they will hear about how God’s story is told again and again. Today they will hear how God provides a table for God’s people.

Setting a Table—

Engage the children in conversation about setting a table.

Who has helped set the table for a meal?

What would you do to set a table?

What items would you need for your table, and where would they go?

Encourage participation so each child adds to the conversation. When they feel they have set a table, move to the next question.

What would you do to set a table of plenty?

What does “plenty” mean?

(You may need to help define “plenty” as “a lot” or even as “more than enough for everyone.”)

Allow some time for thinking and conversation. Tell the children that they will learn about the tables God provides for God’s people.





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Explore—

30–35 minutes

Table in the Wilderness—

Tell the children that Psalm 78 is called a historical psalm as it recounts the history of God with the people of Israel. It tells the story of God’s faithfulness over and over again. Show the children where Psalm 78 is in the Bible and read verses 1–4. Highlight the phrases for the children that show that it is important to tell God’s story.

- “Incline your ears to the words of my mouth”—Listen up because I’m going to tell you something!
- “Things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us”—I’m going to tell you things that people through the ages have told again and again.
- “We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.”—Each generation of children is going to hear about God and the wonders God has done!

Tell the children that the psalm continues to tell about God’s great actions when God saved the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, through the waters of the sea, and into the wilderness. The people were frightened and hungry in the wilderness. They felt that it might have been better to go back to Egypt than to be in the wilderness. Read aloud verse 19, in which the people wondered if God could give them food—spread a table—in the wilderness. Ask the children what they think the wilderness was like and if they think God could give them food there.

Turn to Exodus 16 and tell the children that you are reading from the Exodus story about what happened when the people were in the wilderness. Read verses 11–12 aloud. Engage the children in conversation using the following questions:

Did God provide food in the wilderness?

What do you think this table in the wilderness looks like, and what is on it?

Who do you think is at this table?

How do you think this becomes a table of peace?

Table of Jesus—

Turn to Luke 22. Tell the children that you are going to tell them about another table in the Bible and that this one is from the book of Luke in the New Testament. Read verses 11–20 aloud. Engage the children in conversation using the following questions:



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Does this passage sound familiar? When have you heard words like these before?

What do you think this table of Jesus looks like? What is on it?

Who do you think is at this table?

Why do you think this is a table of peace?

Table of Peace—

Invite children to sit at a table if they haven't already been seated. Hand out copies of the Activity Sheet "Table of Peace." Tell the children that they are going to color their own tables and then attach them side by side to make one long table. Before the children begin coloring, ask the following questions and then review and brainstorm some tables that they may want to use as inspirations for their drawings. You may want to write their ideas on a sheet of newsprint or black/white board for reference.

- The table in the wilderness: The people were hungry and frightened and God provided food.
- The table of Jesus: Who is gathered today at that table each time we celebrate the Lord's Supper?
- A table you know: Who is at your table? Where is this table? At home? church? school? a friend's or a relative's house?

Tell the children to choose one of these tables or one of their own choosing, and use the table on their sheet to depict a scene with the following elements:

- Who is at this table?
- What is on this table?
- Is there a background or setting that they want to include as well?

Closing—

5 minutes

Gather the children together with their drawings. Using clear tape, fold the edges of each paper along dashed lines, and attach the drawings together side by side so they look like one continuous table. Once the long table has been constructed, have the children stand behind their table drawings.

Write the following sentence on a sheet of newsprint or black/white board:

And God has spread a table of peace.





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Tell the children that you will close this lesson with a litany. They will each take a turn saying what the table they drew represents.

Then as a group everyone will say the litany response:

And God has spread a table of peace.

Closing Prayer—*Close with this prayer or one of your own choosing.*

God of peace, God of plenty, throughout the ages and still today you provide for us. You set a table wherever we are and invite us to share in your grace. We are grateful. **Amen.**

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