

Go in Peace

By Melissa Shults



Camp is an exciting experience, but it can also be a time of uncertainty for parents and children alike. For some families, this year's camp experience may be the first time a child spends a week away from parents and friends. This activity provides a good send-off.

For

Families with a child going to summer camp

Season

Summer – before child goes to camp

Needed

Index cards, markers, hole punch, ribbon or string, Bible verses handout (last page)

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin:

Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace and we thank you for your promise to watch over us. Be with our family as we prepare for a time apart and for _____'s time at camp.

2. Read aloud and then discuss the Bible verses on Peace and Fear Not (handout)
 - What did Jesus mean when he said, "Peace be with you"?
 - What does it mean to be peaceful or have peace?
 - What do you think the Bible means when it says, "Fear not"?
 - What is a good way to overcome your fears?
3. Working together, choose favorite verses from the handout, one for each day the child is at camp. Talk about why you are choosing these particular verses as your favorites. Write them on index cards, one verse per card. Make two sets of cards.
4. Decorate each set of cards.
 - Parents decorate the cards that your child will take to camp, writing a note of encouragement on a card or two if desired.
 - Campers decorate the cards that will be used at home, writing a note to each parent and siblings.
 - Punch holes and tie the cards together to create a booklet.
 - Consider adding family pictures to the booklet and choosing a favorite stuffed animal to attach to the verses.
5. Use the booklets during peace-less moments while you are apart. Talk about how reading these verses can help remind you that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and despite feeling sad, lonely, or homesick, that Jesus promises to bring peace when we ask for it.

Bible Verses on Peace

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Ephesians 2:14

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Bible Verses Fear Not

Genesis 26:24

And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake."

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalms 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Matthew 10:31

Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Hebrews 13:6

So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"