**PREPARATION**

* Purchase a copy of *The Peace Table* for each child from [www.ThePeaceTableBible.com](http://www.ThePeaceTableBible.com).
* Fill in the presentation page at the beginning of each book. Refer to Additional Personalization Options below.
* For ease of use, put small sticky notes on each of the pages listed in “Introducing *The Peace Table* to Children” of the order of service.
* Access the provided PowerPoint presentation with the words of the scripture litany and song lyrics of “May God Bless You.” If not projecting the slides, print the half-page bulletin insert with the scripture litany and song lyrics.
* Decide who will present the books and how that will be structured. See Additional Presentation Ideas below.
* Choose additional songs for use in the service. Song suggestions include:
	+ “May God Bless You” from *Worship Songs for Children* (included)
	+ “Thy Word” by Amy Grant
	+ “See the Children Here Before Us” by Jan McGuire and Pepper Choplin (vs. 1, 3) (*Voices Together* hymnal, page 509)
	+ “Lord, We Bring to You Our Children” by Frank von Christierson (*Sing the Journey,* page 90)

**Supplies**

* Copies of *The Peace Table* (one per child or family)
* Sticky notes
* PowerPoint presentationor bulletin insert with scripture litany and song lyrics
* “May God Bless You” song download or from *Everybody Sing* CD
* *Optional:* Camera or phone for taking pictures

**Additional Personalization Options:**

* Set out the Bibles for several weeks before you plan to present them so that everyone in the congregation can sign their name on the inside cover or presentation page as a reminder of all the people who support and love the child. *Optional:* Include a verse or word of blessing with the signature.
* Invite parents, pastors, Sunday school teachers, mentors, or any individuals who purchased copies of *The Peace Table* to write a short note on a note card or bookmark to insert in one or more of the Bibles. They could write what the Bible means to them, include a favorite Bible verse, and/or a blessing for the child. Encourage them to pray for the child throughout the year.

**Additional Presentation Ideas:**

* Make this a family event—have the entire family or one additional family member accompany each child to the front as a symbol that the book is meant to be shared as a family.
* Take a photo of each child receiving a copy of *The Peace Table*, as well as a group photo of all the children with their Bibles. Print the photo(s) and send them home as a memento.
* Print the free Peace Path bookmarks from [www.ThePeaceTableBible.com](http://www.ThePeaceTableBible.com) to send home with each child. Encourage children to read through the peace paths with their family as described on page 16 in *The Peace Table.*

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Introducing *The Peace Table* to the Children**

Invite children to come forward and sit down.

(*Hold up a Bible.*) **Did you know that the Bible is not just one long story? There are 66 smaller books in this one large book. That’s a lot of books to read! We hope that one day you will read the whole Bible. But for now, we have a special gift for you.**

(*Hold up* The Peace Table.) **Today our church will be giving you a storybook Bible called *The Peace Table.* It has a smaller number of stories chosen just for children. *The Peace Table* includes many different things:**

(*Show* *page 20.*) **It tells about the creation of the earth—seas, land, plants, animals, and people.**

(*page 59*) **It explores the story of the Israelites as God led them out of slavery in Egypt, through the Red Sea, and into the Promised Land.**

(*page 63*) **It gives rules for living at peace with God and each other.**

(*page 87*) **This Bible doesn’t just have stories and rules. It has songs that** **express many feelings—sadness, anger, doubt, fear, and joy.**

(*page 98*) **It even has a love song.**

(*page 97*) **There are wise words called Proverbs.**

(*page 113*) **There are many prophecies, which are messages of hope and comfort that God gave.**

(*page 171*) **Much of this storybook Bible is about Jesus, who was sent by God into the world.**

(*page 199*) **Jesus healed people.**

(*page 211*) **He taught and told many stories.**

(*page 225*) **He even did amazing miracles!**

(*page 297*) **This Bible also includes stories about the early churches.**

(*page 321*) **And guess what! In this Bible, you can read other people’s mail! Several followers of Jesus wrote letters to the churches to help them know how to follow God. Some of those letters are in this book.**

**We hope that *The Peace Table* will inspire you to love Jesus, grow in faith, and change the world with the love and peace of God. Hear now some special words from the Bible that are especially for you.**

**Scripture Litany**

Invite the congregation to join in reading a scripture litany to the children. Use the PowerPoint slides or the bulletin insert. If desired, divide the congregation to read different portions of the litany, such as left side, middle, right side.

**God formed you inside and out. God knit you together in your mother’s womb. You were made in a wonderful way.**

**God has good plans for you. God has loved you with an everlasting love and will always be faithful to you.**

**God will rescue you and protect you. God will be with you in trouble.**

**Rest in the great love God has for you. Let it bring joy to your hearts. God chose you and loves you.**

**Presentation of *The Peace Table***

Have a pastor, parent, Sunday school teacher, mentor, or donor invite each child forward. As they hand a copy of *The Peace Table* to the child, say:

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (*child’s name*), **God’s word will be a lamp for your feet and a light**

**for your path.**

**Prayer of Blessing**

Extend a hand of blessing toward the children, encouraging the congregation to do the same. Invite family members of the children to stand as they are able. Pray:

**Loving God, bless each of these children and families as they read *The Peace Table*.**

**May they grow in knowledge and wisdom.**

**May they find comfort and hope in times of struggle.**

**May the teachings and example of Jesus guide their lives**

**and help them choose your way of peace and love. Amen.**

**Closing**

Invite children to turn and face the congregation while holding their Bibles. Close by singing “May God Bless You” from *Worship Songs for Children.*

***May God bless you and keep you.***

***May God’s face shine upon you.***

***May God be gracious,***

***and may God’s face turn toward you***

***and give you peace.***

Words and music: Seth Crissman and Greg Yoder (based on Numbers 6:24–26)
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