**Announcements for Spring 2025**

These faith-building ideas for families are ready to be shared via email, on a social media platform such as Facebook, or in a weekly bulletin or newsletter. Each week’s suggestions coordinate with the Shine curriculum that children and junior youth use during Christian education time. Announcements for this quarter run from Sunday, March 2, through May 25. Modify the dates as needed to match your church’s schedule.

**Add this explanation the first week you send out or post the announcements:**

Today we are beginning a weekly announcement for families of children and junior youth. Each Sunday you will find faith nurture ideas that coordinate with the weekly session plans from the Shine curriculum your child’s group uses. The Bible story can be read from *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible,* which is available for purchase from www.ShineCurriculum.com/shop. Or simply read it from a translation of your choice. Each week includes the prayer practice that your child(ren) was introduced to during Sunday school. Continue that practice each day.

**A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated***Session 1*

**March 2, 2025**

**Who Is My Neighbor?**

**Read** page 230 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Luke 10:25–37. What did the Samaritan do to care for the injured man? Tell about a time when you helped someone you did not know.

**Pray** for your community’s first responders and healthcare workers who help us when we are sick or injured.

**Make** a list of all your neighbors’ names. If you don’t know them, make an effort to meet everyone and learn something about their lives.

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**March 9, 2025**

**Who Will Come to the Banquet?**

**Read** page 238 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Luke 14:15–24. Tell about a special or surprising invitation you received.

**Pray** for people in our world who may feel left out or unwelcome.

**Weave** a special placemat for your table using construction paper. Find instructions online. Take turns sitting at the honored place this week.

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**March 16, 2025**

**Who Will Search?**

**Read** page 240 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Luke 15:1–10.What do the shepherd and the woman both do when they find what was lost? Tell about a time when you lost something very important to you.

**Pray**, askingGod to help you find ways to reach out to people who have lost their way. Thank God for seeking us when we are lost, like a shepherd seeks a beloved sheep and like a woman seeks a valuable coin.

**Play** a hiding game. Have one person hide a coin for the rest of the family to find. Celebrate when you find it!

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**March 23, 2025**

**Who Will Celebrate?**

**Read** page 242 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Luke 15:11–32. Talk about what you think happens next. Did the brothers reconcile? Why or why not?

**Pray** for people who live in places different from you, all around the world.

**Read** *Adam Raccoon and the Circus Master* by Glen Keane or find a read-aloud version online. Talk about how the book is similar to today’s Bible story.

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**March 30, 2025**

**Jesus Enters Jerusalem**

**Read** page 260 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Luke 19:28–40. We can honor Jesus with words and actions. Share examples of ways to honor Jesus.

**Pray**. God is with us in good and bad times. Take turns sharing something good that happened this week and something that made you sad. Bring your joys and sorrows to God in prayer.

**Make** leaf rubbings to remind you that people laid leafy branches on the road to welcome Jesus. Place white paper over a leaf and use the side of a crayon to color over the area where the leaf is. Write “Hosanna!” on the paper. 

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**April 6, 2025**

**The Last Supper**

**Read** page 274 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Luke 22:1–23. What do you do to remember Jesus? Name someone you know who serves others instead of expecting to be served.

**Pray**. Continue prayers of joy and sorrow. Take turns sharing something good that happened this week and something that made you sad. Bring your joys and sorrows to God in prayer.

**Eat** matzo bread or crackers to remember the unleavened bread Jesus shared with his disciples at the Last Supper. 

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**April 13, 2025**

**Jesus’ Arrest and Death**

**Read** page 277 and 279 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Luke 22:39–23:56. If you read directly from the Bible, read a bit of the story each day. Name all the feelings the various people may have experienced.

**Pray**. Continue prayers of joy and sorrow. Take turns sharing something good that happened this week and something that made you sad. Bring your joys and sorrows to God in prayer.

**Search** online to find instructions for how to fold a paper cross.

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**April 20, 2025**

**Jesus Is Risen!**

**Read** page 280 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Luke 24:1–12. The women brought spices to the tomb. Smell various spices in your kitchen cabinet.

**Pray**. Continue prayers of joy and sorrow. Take turns sharing something good that happened this week and something that made you sad. Bring your joys and sorrows to God in prayer.

**Bake** together! Fill large plastic easter eggs with spices and dry ingredients (in small containers or plastic bags). Once all the eggs are found, gather in the kitchen to bake a favorite easter treat.

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**April 27, 2025**

**One Body**

**Read** page 316 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Romans 12:1–8. Talk about letters, cards, or emails you’ve received from relatives or friends who are far away.

**Pray** with your body! Sit or stand in place, feet slightly apart, and take a few deep breaths. Put your hands on your stomach and feel it rise and fall with a deep breath. Then praise God with your whole body (*stomp feet*, *clap hands*, *reach arms up*, *jump*)!

**Talk** about jobs that need to get done in your home. Do any of you have special tasks to help the family? Take a minute to say thanks for the ways each person helps.

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**May 4, 2025**

**What Is Love?**

**Read** pages 318–319 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or 1 Corinthians 1:10–11; 13. How many times is the word *love* used in 1 Corinthians 13? Name ways you can show love at home. Set a timer for three minutes. How many ideas did you list in three minutes?

**Pray** with your body to receive God’s love. Take a few slow breaths, putting your hands on your stomach to feel the air move in and out. Breathe God’s love in and then out to share it with others.

**Paint** hearts with watercolors and make a heart mobile to hang over your dining table. On each heart write one characteristic of love from 1 Corinthians 13.

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**May 11, 2025**

**Breaking Down Walls**

**Read** page 320 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Ephesians 2:12–22. Whisper “Jesus gives us peace” so your family members can hear it. Now shout “Jesus gives us peace” so people far away can hear it.

**Pray** a prayer of thanks, making a stack out of your hands. As each person adds her or his hand to the stack, say “Thank you, God, for \_\_\_\_ (*name*).” Have everyone joyfully raise their hands and say amen together.

**Read** *The Peace Book* by Todd Parr or listen to a read aloud on YouTube. Give everyone a blank piece of paper and crayons or makers and have them draw what peace is to them. Staple or clip the pages together to make a family peace book.

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**May 18, 2025**

**God Is Near**

**Read** page 322 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Philippians 4:1–14. Talk about friends that you have and one thing that makes them fun to be with.

**Pray** with your body! Sit or stand in place, feet slightly apart, and take a few deep breaths. Put your hands on your stomach and feel it rise and fall with a deep breath. Then praise God with your whole body (*stomp feet*, *clap hands*, *reach arms up*, *jump*)!

**Write** “Rejoice in the Lord always” at the top of a blank piece of paper. Throughout the week, add things that you are rejoicing about to the list. Share your list with your pastor or a teacher next week.

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**May 25, 2025**

**Remain in God’s Love**

**Read** page 328 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or 1 John 4:7–21. John thought it was important for people to love one another like brothers and sisters. Spend some time sharing what you love about members of your family.

**Pray** with your body to receive and God’s love. Take a few slow breaths, putting your hands on your stomach to feel the air move in and out. Breathe God’s love in and then out to share it with others.

**Share** God’s love! Pass around a small box with a mirror inside. Say “When you get the box, open it and see who God loves.” Encourage everyone to keep it a secret until everyone has had a turn.