

## STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



### Week Thirty Eight - Peace That Surpasses

#### **A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*This week we focus on peace — but not in the way we often use that word. Peace in the bible is ‘shalom’ which means wholeness and everything being made right. We will see this more clearly through the picture given to us in Revelation, when Jesus returns with the home he is preparing for us. Pray that this kind of peace will give a vision to our kids for how to live with hope today.*

- **Big Idea:** Jesus is at work making all things right and whole - including us!

#### **Starter**

- **Evidences of Grace**

*Ask kids to share ways they’ve seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.*

- **Discussion**

*Ask: What does peace look or sound like? Let the kids name as much as they can. Ask: What does peace NOT look or sound like?*

*Let them know that peace is not just quiet or calm, but the peace the bible talks about, that Jesus offers us, is being made whole and right: with ourselves, with each other, with creation, and with God.*

#### **Sing Together**

### Story - from Revelation 1, 21, & 22

After many years of following the ways of Jesus and waiting for him to return, one of his disciples named John got a vision from God. It was a picture of what God will ultimately do one day when Jesus returns. It was a message from Jesus, sent by one of God's messengers (or angels) to John — and John was supposed to pass the message along to the churches across the world. So, John wrote a letter to seven churches in the main cities.

He started his letter by saying, “*Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the Spirit before his throne, and from King Jesus, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*”

Later in his letter he told them about the vision he saw of what Jesus would do one day to bring full peace. He wrote:

*I saw heaven and earth made new, for the old ways of heaven and earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw Holy Jerusalem, made new, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a beautiful bride ready for her husband.*

*And I heard a voice thunder from the throne: “Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making His home with men and women! They’re His people, He’s their God. He’ll wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the old way of things gone.”*

*The One on the throne said, “Look! I’m making everything new. Write it all down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

...

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

*Then Jesus said, “Yes, I am coming soon.”*

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

*The grace of King Jesus be with God’s people. Amen!*

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- When John greeted the church with “Grace and peace to you” the word for peace was ‘shalom’. It means so much more than the way we say peace. It means wholeness, everything being made right, and working together for good. — How did you hear about shalom in John’s vision?
- Jesus was called the Prince of Peace. If we use the shalom definition of peace, how does Jesus bring shalom to the world?
- Do you think we can experience some of God’s peace here and now, even before Jesus returns?

### **Breakout Time**

- **Prayer:**

God, thank you for bringing peace to the world through your Son, Jesus. Thank you that we can experience your peace even today through your Spirit. Thank you that Jesus will return and make all things right one day.

- **Craft:**

- Use the attached page to color, cut out, and build a house. Talk about how Jesus is building a home for us to live with him in forever.
- OR use the final sheet attached to color and cut out a tree ornament.

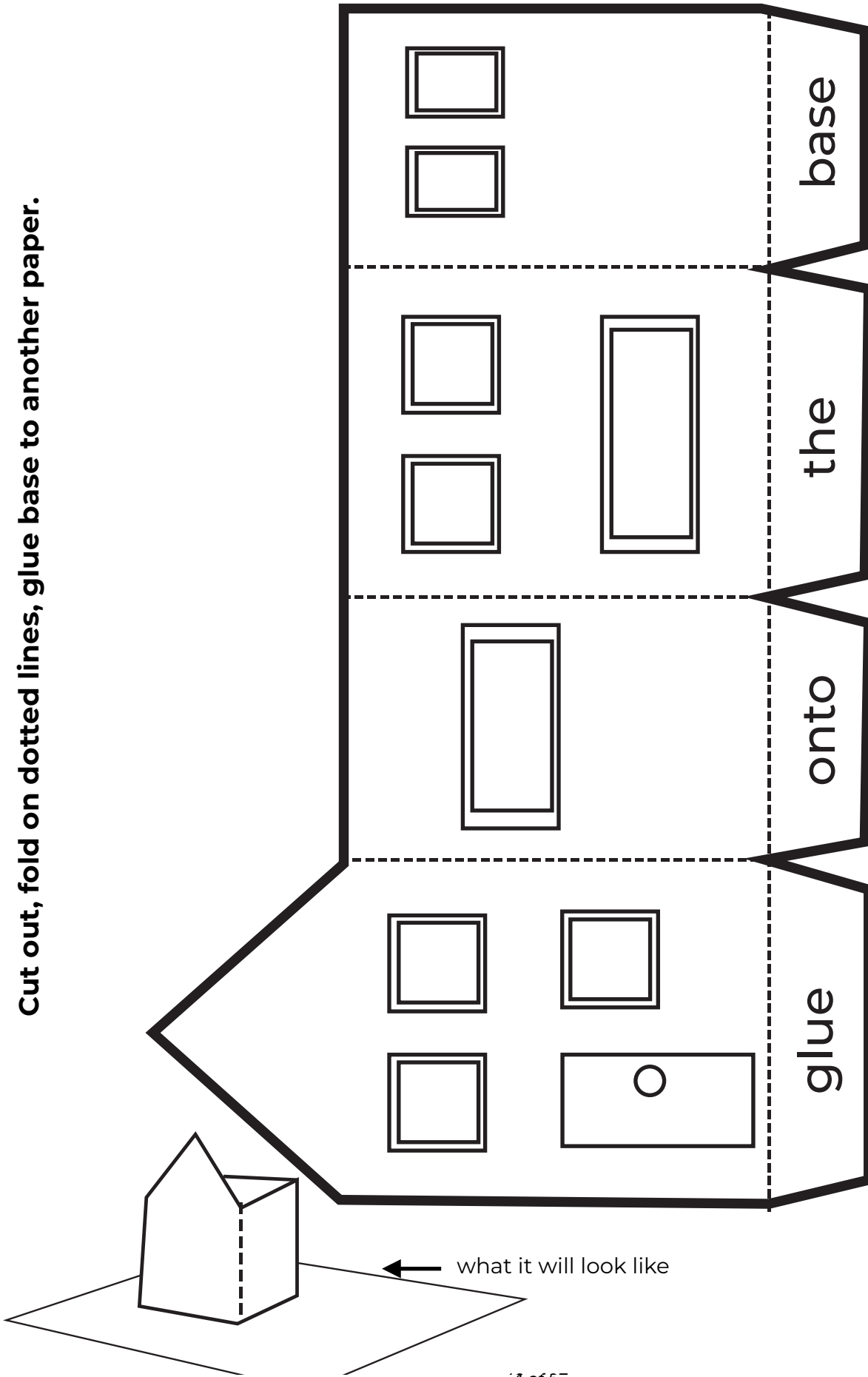
- **BLESS Activity:** *\*For kids to do during the week\**

*Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God’s Story.*

This week, focus on the **Sabbath** rhythm.

When Jesus returns and makes the world new, we will have ultimate rest. How can you and your family rest this week, even during the busy holiday season, to remind yourselves that Jesus is making all things right?

Cut out, fold on dotted lines, glue base to another paper.



The top is left open so you can fill your house. What will you fill your home with? Who will live there? Who will be invited? How does your home reflect how God is building a home for us?

