



Perfect Peace!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

This lesson introduces Big Billy Bustle, a character who can't find peace because he is always busy and in a state of noisy, confused activity. The children will learn what it means to trust God so they can experience His shalom, or peace, based on Isaiah 26:3. (The poem Wee Willie Winkie was first published in 1841 by William Miller.)

Warm-Up Activity: Tip Toe Trail

As children enter your Children's Church space, invite them to tiptoe along a trail of bedtime-themed items—think teddy bears, slippers, storybooks, and cosy blankets. Soft lullaby music plays in the background, setting a gentle, curious mood. This dreamy entrance will spark their imaginations and get them wondering what surprises await!

Bible Story: Jesus Calms the Storm

Bible Reference: Matthew 8:23, Mark 4:35-4; Luke 8:22-25; Isaiah 26:3

Visuals You Will Need:

1. Jesus teaching
2. In the boat
3. Jesus falls asleep
4. Storm
5. Disciples are afraid as the storm gets worse
6. They wake Jesus
7. Jesus addresses the storm, and it ends
8. The disciples are amazed
9. School, friends & family
10. Child refusing the wrong things
11. Child loving others
12. Child being creative

Character: Big Billy Bustle

Costume: Nightdress, nightcap and slippers

Props: Battery-operated candle in a candle holder



Words:

Leader: Hello, everybody.
I'm so glad you're in Children's Church.
I have a great Bible story to tell you today!

Big Billy Bustle enters. He's holding a candle in one hand and looks exhausted. He walks straight up to the leader.

BBB: Sush!

Leader: Excuse me?

BBB: Sush!

Leader: You can't shush me.
I am about to tell the children a Bible story.
Who are you, anyway?

BBB: Big Billy Bustle.

Leader: Big Billy Bustle?
Wait a minute, you wouldn't happen to be related to Wee Willy Winkie?

BBB: *(Nods slowly and yawns)*
Yes, we're cousins.
We're all the same in my family.
Running through the town.
Upstairs and downstairs.
Tapping at the window and crying at the lock,
'Are all the children in their beds, for it's now ten o'clock?'

Leader: Wow, that's an interesting family you have there.

BBB: Tell me about it.
The trouble is, I can't sleep.
I have no peace.
Even when I stop running up and down stairs, my mind is racing.
So if you could shush, I might be able to nod off.

Leader: I'm sorry you are so troubled Big Billy Bustle.
Living with stress and anxiety and feeling overwhelmed is horrible.
But instead of me shushing, I think it's more important than ever that I
tell today's Bible story.
Tell you what, you can sit here (*offers a chair nearby*).

BBB: (*Sitting and getting comfortable*)
Is it a bedtime story?

Leader: Kind of...

Visual 1: After a busy day of teaching, when it came to evening, Jesus spoke to His disciples, 'Let's go over to the other side of Lake Galilee.'

Visual 2: Leaving the crowds behind, they got into a boat and set off. The trip across the lake was around 21 kilometres (13 miles) and would take them to the region of Gerasenes.

Visual 3: The weather was calm when they set off, and Jesus was very tired. He lay down to sleep on a cushion in the back of the boat.

Visual 4: Galilee is surrounded by very high hills, and strong winds can descend off these down into the lake, causing violent storms. A furious squall suddenly blew up, and big waves broke over the boat.

Visual 5: Water flooded into the boat faster than the disciples could bail it out! Although many of them were experienced fishermen, they became very afraid. The boat was swamped, and it wouldn't be long before they would sink.

BBB: (*Standing up*)
Wait a minute...wait a minute.
This is not a peaceful bedtime story.
I am more wide awake than ever!

Leader: Trust me, Big Billy Bustle, you need to hear this.
Take a seat.
(*Big Billy Bustle sits*)

Visual 6: Jesus was still fast asleep on a cushion in the rear of the boat. The disciples shook Him awake. 'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?' Jesus replied, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?'

Visual 7: Jesus stood up in the violently rocking boat and gave the orders to the wind and the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' The wind died down, and it was completely calm.

Visual 8: The disciples were terrified and amazed at the power of Jesus. 'Who is this?' they asked each other. 'Even the wind and the waves obey Him!'

Leader: Jesus had peace and slept through the storm because He trusted God. God promises that if we keep our minds focused on Him, we can stay in a place of perfect peace, no matter what is going on around us.

BBB: *(Standing with the Leader)*
How can that be?

Leader: I know it is hard to understand. *(Philippians 4:7)*
Big Billy Bustle, you have to keep your thoughts on God.
God's peace is not based on your circumstances, like the crashing waves and destructive winds.

BBB: Or stairs, windows and locks.

Leader: God's perfect peace changes everything!

Visual 9: God's peace means you don't need to be anxious about school, your friends or your family.
When there are changes and you're not sure what is going on, you know that God loves you and you're never alone.

Visual 10: God's peace means you will have the courage to say 'yes' to God and 'no' to things that will harm you.

Visual 11: God's peace means you will be kind even when people are mean to you, and you'll be able to forgive them.

Visual 12: God's peace means instead of mentally worrying about things, your mind is free to imagine, create, explore and enjoy your life.

BBB: God's perfect peace does change everything!
I choose to put my focus on God right now!
I trust Him to give me perfect peace.
Wait until Wee Willie Winkie hears about this...
He'll be...so....ZZZ...
(Falls asleep)

Leader: *(Looks at the children and smiles)*
Shush!

Ministry to the Children:

When you are righteous, you have peace. *(Isaiah 32:17)* What does that mean? To be righteous means to be perfect in every way. What you say and what you do, and your attitude. Oh-oh, but how many of you are perfect in every way? So, how can you be righteous and have peace? You can't. That's why God sent Jesus. Jesus was righteous. He was perfect. He said the right things and did the right things. But He agreed to be crucified to die for the sins of the world. He took your sins for you and paid for them with His life. God raised Jesus from the dead, and if you accept

Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and ask Him into your heart, you will receive His righteousness. (2 Corinthians 5:21) You will have deep, lasting peace, and it will fill your mind, soul and heart!

Memory Verse: Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

'Pillowcase' Relay Race

For this energetic game, use hessian sacks—but call them 'pillows' to match the theme.

You will need:

- Memory Verse words x 2
- A pillowcase per team (and a few spares just in case)
- Teams
- Start and finish lines

What to do:

Ask the first child in each team to stand inside their pillowcases on the start line. On the signal, the children jump with both feet together towards the finish line. At the finish line, the child steps out of the pillowcase, picks up the pillowcase and grabs a word of the Memory Verse and runs back to their team. They hand over the pillowcase for the next team member to retrieve another word of the Memory Verse. The first team to retrieve every word and assemble it in the correct order wins!

Game: Musical Pillows!

You Will Need:

- Pillows
- Lullaby music

How to Play:

- One less pillow than there are children.
- Arrange the pillows in a central area.
- Start the music playing while the children circle the arranged pillows.
- When the music stops, the children have to find a pillow to sit on.
- The child left standing is out of the game.
- Remove one pillow after each round.
- The winner is the child who gets the last seat at the end of the game.

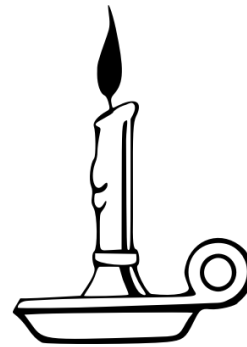
Craft 1: Pillowcase Decorating

Provide each child with a white pillowcase and a variety of fabric pens. Invite them to decorate their pillowcases with drawings, patterns, and personal touches. Encourage them to include either the full Memory Verse or simply its reference as part of their design.

Craft 2: Candle and Candleholder

You will need:

- Cardboard tubes
- Glue and brushes or glue stick and sticky tape
- Construction paper
- Tissue paper or a pipe cleaner (to make a flame)
- Paper plate (the saucer)
- Scissors
- Felt pens
- Embellishments



What to do:

- Roll the cardboard tube in construction paper and sticky tape in place
- Decorate the candle and the paper plate
- Glue the candle to the paper plate
- Add embellishments
- Tuck tissue paper into the top or tape a pipe cleaner to create the flame

To make the candle resemble Wee Willie Winkie's classic bedtime light, attach a cardboard loop to the paper plate to serve as a handle. This simple addition gives it the look of an old-fashioned chamber stick!

Calm-down Game: Sleeping Children

Big Billy Bustle will be checking to see who is asleep and who he can wake up!

- Have all of the other children lie down on the floor in sleeping positions.
- Once they're down, they can't move.
- Big Billy Bustle walks through the room and tries to make the sleeping children laugh or move but without touching the children
- If a child moves, they are tapped and they get up and join Big Billy Bustle in trying to make others laugh or move
- The last child still on the floor wins!

Name:

Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on You,
because he trusts in You.

