



PEACE | WEEK 3 | APRIL 17-18, 2021

2nd-3rd Lesson

War and Peace

Life App: Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

Bible Story: War and Peace (Isaac's Wells) • *Genesis 26:1-6, 12-22, 26-31*

Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.

Memory Verse: So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another. Romans 14:19 (NIRV)

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

When Adam and Eve decided that their way was better than God's way and broke God's rule, they changed the relationship between God and His creation. When once everything and everyone could be in the presence of God, now we were at odds with God. God could have done anything He wanted, including wiping us out and starting over. But instead, God decided to make peace with us. Ultimately God did this through His Son, Jesus. When Jesus rose from the dead, He paid the price for everything that was wrong and unfair in this world. Because of Jesus, we can have peace. We don't have to get even. Instead, we can reflect the character of Christ by caring for others and making peace.

For week three, we head back to **Genesis 26:1-6, 12-22, 26-31**. Isaac moved to a region where he reclaimed the wells that had belonged to his father, Abraham. For years no one had cared about the wells until they were reopened, then everyone started fighting over them. Instead of fighting, Isaac decided to give away the wells in order to make peace. Isaac simply walked away from what was rightfully his. And by walking away from the fight, those people changed their opinion about Isaac, and decided to trust him.

Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight. Sometimes creating peace with someone means walking away even if we're not wrong. Often it takes a stronger person to have the self control to walk away. We pray that kids will learn how they can choose peace when they want to argue and fight.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

OPENING ACTIVITY:

(Masking Tape)

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Using masking tape, create a start line and a turn-around line on opposite sides of the environment.
- Line up teams at the start line.
 - Kids will race to the turn-around line and back to their team moving in whatever way you assign them.
 - For example: tiptoe, walk backwards, march, hop on one foot, etc.
 - When kids return to their teams, they tag the next kid in line.
 - Once tagged, the next kid races to the turn-around line and back.
 - Once everyone has raced, the team sits down.
 - The first team to sit down wins.
 - Play several rounds, changing the way kids need to move for each round.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

The Large Group Leader has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to KidCity. The LGL is relatable and inviting. LGLs can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday, etc. The LGL tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today by playing a game, singing some incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God’s Word, the Bible.

"But first, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind – We need to be kind with our words and actions to our friends, leaders, and the space that we are using
2. Be Safe – Make wise choices with your actions and words
3. Have Fun – Participate in what we are doing! It's no fun just sitting there...

"Now that we know our expectations, let's kick off our day with a game!"

LARGE GROUP GAME

CAN YOU DIG IT?

(3 Blindfolds, 3 Large Plastic Bins, Filler Material, 15 Mini Water Bottles)

LGL: "Hi, friends! How's it going? If you're having a good day, give me a thumbs-up. *(Do a thumbs-up.)* Well, no matter how your day is going, it's about to get even better! We're having a ton of fun this month as we learn how God can help us make peace.

(SLIDE: LIFE APP)

"Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

(SLIDE: THEME)

"When you make peace with someone, you show how much you care about them. It's like you're building a bridge *(demonstrate with your hands)*, so you can reconnect with them and make things right again.

"Our story today is about some guys digging for water. So I thought we could play a fun digging game as we get started. Let's see . . . I need three leaders to come up here and play.

Bring up three Small Group Leaders to play the game on stage. Have each leader stand behind one of the large plastic bins.

(to the three contestants) "Thanks for playing, leaders. As you can see, each of you has a bin full of [filler material is in your bins]. Somewhere in each bin are five mini water bottles. When I say go, you'll dig into the bins and try to be the first to find all five bottles. The first person to find all of them, wins. Oh—and I almost forgot. You'll be blindfolded!

Hand a blindfold to each contestant and give them a chance to put them on.

"All right, leaders. *(to audience)* We'll all be cheering for you. Won't we? Okay, let's get this game started! Three, two, one, DIG!"

(AUDIO: FUN MUSIC)

Provide funny commentary as the leaders dig around for the water bottles. As they find the bottles, line them up in front of the bins so the kids can easily see the score. Declare the winner when one leader successfully finds all five bottles.

“Wow! Are these leaders amazing or what? Let’s give them a hand as they head back to their seats.

Collect the blindfolds as you dismiss the leaders to their seats.

“[Leaders’ names] worked so hard to dig for the water, just like some guys in the story today. But before we get to that, let’s all get ready to sing and praise God together.”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: THIS IS LIVING NOW, BURN)

BIBLE STORY

(SLIDES: LIFE APP, BOTTOM LINE, MEMORY VERSE, BASIC TRUTH; VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)

(Bible)

LGL: “Let’s remind ourselves of our definition for the Life App, Peace.

(LIFE APP SLIDE) “Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

“You know what, that’s what we are learning about today...when should you walk away from a fight? If we are being honest, we’ve *all* had times where we get in an argument with someone and you both get madder and madder until you forget in the moment that you are supposed to love each other. What if instead of jumping right into an argument, you look for a peaceful response when someone makes you mad? Let’s watch what the Bible has to say about it.”

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY)

“It’s important for us to make peace with the people around us. Isaac certainly thought that was true.

“I mean, think about it. It wasn’t fair that the Philistines were so mean to Isaac. It would have been really easy for him to be mean back. But instead, Isaac walked away. He chose to make peace. And because of that, the Philistines trusted him enough to make a peace treaty—so they wouldn’t have any more disagreements in the future. Remember...

(SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE) “You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.”

“If you’re frustrated or mad, and you’re not sure you can walk away, stop and think for a minute. Think about Jesus. Remember what He did for us. Jesus died on the cross because He knew it was part of God’s plan. He knew it was the only way to make peace with us, once and for all.

“And don’t forget—sometimes it IS important to stand up for yourself. Peace doesn’t mean that you have to give up what’s right. If you’re in a tough situation, and you aren’t sure what to do, you

can always talk to your mom or dad, your Small Group Leader, your teacher, or another adult who can help. However you choose to have peace, it's a BIG deal. Our Basic Truth says,

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) "I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now."

"When we accept Jesus as our Friend and Savior, the Holy Spirit - who is God - helps us do things that honor God and might feel impossible on our own. Choosing to love others and walking away from a fight is best done with God's help. God is faithful and will help us when we ask."

"Let's say our verse together before we pray."

MEMORY VERSE

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)

So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.
Romans 14:19 (NirV)

"Let's pray together."

PRAYER

"Dear God, thank You so much for giving Isaac the strength to make peace. It probably wasn't easy for him to walk away when the Philistines were causing trouble. Please help us choose peace like he did. Help us know when it's wise to stand up and when it's wise to walk away. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Life App: Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

Bible Story: War and Peace (Isaac's Wells) • *Genesis 26:1-6, 12-22, 26-31*

Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.

Basic Truth: I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.

Memory Verse: So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another. Romans 14:19 (NirV)

LET GO!

(“Peacemaking Opportunities” Activity Page)

What You Do:

- Tell the kids that you will give them a scenario.
- Give them a moment to brainstorm and share some unique ways they can be peacemakers in that situation.

- After brainstorming, guide kids in voting for which solution they think is the best one for that situation. (No one can vote for their own idea.)
- Then let kids work together to act-out the problematic situation and the solution that the group voted for. (If you have a big group, you can divide them into two teams to act-out the scenario or, for each round, let kids volunteer to be actors as you assign them roles.)
- Choose scenarios from the list that you think are the best fit for your specific group. Do as many scenarios as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“Great job of brainstorming ways to keep peace in some difficult situations! Since we only picked one idea for each scenario, you got to experience letting go of your ideas for the sake of agreement and peace. How did it make you feel? (*Pause for responses.*) How did it feel when your idea wasn’t chosen? (*Pause for responses.*) When your idea wasn’t chosen, you had a choice to make—fight over your idea or keep the peace by letting go and walking away.

“We face situations every day where we can choose to fight or walk away. Walking away helps build a bridge of peace between you and the people you care about. This doesn’t include allowing someone to bully you or someone else, or to be unkind to you over and over again. If that is happening, tell an adult you trust—like me—so we can help you with it. In all other situations, keeping the peace means we think about how we can get along with the other person before we try to prove we are right or fight for what’s fair. **[Bottom Line] You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.**”

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

(“Sentence Cards” Activity Pages – 2 sets per group, 3 Hula Hoops or Tape, 2 Pieces of Paper)

What You Do:

- Set two hula hoops on the ground with enough space between them to fit another hoop. Or if you choose to not use hula hoops, just put down tape circles.
 - Write “PEACE IS . . .” on a piece of paper and place it in one hula hoop.
 - Write “PEACE IS NOT . . .” on a piece of paper and place it in the other hoop.
- Set a third hula hoop in between the two hoops on the ground. It doesn’t matter the distance between hula hoops as long as none of them are touching.
- Divide kids into two or three teams.
- Give each team a stack of “Sentence Cards.”
- Ask teams to decide which sentence each “Sentence Card” finishes: “Peace is . . .” or “Peace is not . . .”
- Tell teams to place the card in the corresponding hula hoop.
- If they are undecided or they think a card could finish both sentences, they can put the card in the middle hoop.
- Once teams are finished placing the “Sentence Cards” in the hoops, group identical cards together in each hoop.
- Use the following as a guide for your group’s discussion:
 - Discuss any cards placed in the middle hoop. Encourage kids to explain why it was difficult to determine what sentence the “Sentence Card” completed. Did the statement on the card work for both sentences and if so, why?

- Discuss any discrepancies—did “Sentence Cards” containing the same statement end up in different hoops? Ask teams to discuss how they came to those decisions.
- Ask: Are there other statements you would add for what “peace is . . .” or what “peace is not . . .”?
- Ask: Which of these cards is hard to do? *[Make it Personal] (Be prepared to share which card is hard for you. Maybe you struggle with wanting win an argument especially when you know you are right. Or maybe when you are mad at a friend you have a hard time walking away before you say something you wish you hadn't.)*

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- How do you know when you should walk away from a fight?
- How can you peacefully disagree with someone? *(This allows for the discussion that we can disagree with people and still care about them. It is when winning the argument is more important than caring for the person that the disagreement become “un-peaceful.”)*
- What can you do when you try to live in peace and it still seems like things aren’t peaceful?
- Is there ever a time when you *shouldn’t* walk away from a fight? *(Ask kids to give an example if they say yes. Ask “why not” if they say no.)*

PRAY AND DISMISS

(2nd/3rd GodTime Card - 1 per kid)

What You Say:

“Dear Jesus, You loved us SO much that long ago that You chose to walk away from a fight. You let Yourself be arrested and put to death on the cross, even though You hadn’t done anything wrong and You had the power to stop it. You did it to make peace with us, once and for all. Thank You that with Your help, we can walk away from a fight, even when it’s hard. We love You, Lord. Amen.”

Pass out the GodTime Cards to each kid. If there’s spare time, encourage kids to start looking over their GodTime card and point out how it relates to today’s lesson.