



PEACE | WEEK 3 | APRIL 17-18, 2021

4th-5th 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*

Key Question: When should you walk away from a fight?

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.

Key Question: When should you walk away from a fight? If you walk into a fifth-grade classroom, you'll quickly discover that even if fists aren't flying, kids argue and fight with each other. Walking away from a fight can be one of the hardest things a kid does because they feel like their entire reputation is at stake. We pray kids leave with a game plan for how they can make the wise choice and walk away from a fight.

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.

HOST: “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

“BOUNTY” BRIDGE

(4 Chairs, 2 Rolls of Paper Towels, Tape, Weights, Huge Water Dropper)

LGL: “What’s going on, everyone! We have a great day in store for you. And it begins with another bridge challenge. I need four people up here pronto!

LGL chooses four volunteers for a bridge-building challenge.

“Alright, here’s the challenge. Take this roll of paper towel and build a bridge that spans from this chair to this chair. You may not move the chairs. You must tape the paper towel to the chairs, but you can’t have tape anywhere else *(no tape as support on the paper)*. Then, you must put these weights on your bridge. You can decide where and how to put them on, but they need to be completely on the paper towel.”

“After you and your partner have assembled your bridge, it is time for the strength test. Here I have a huge water dropper. Each team will take a dropper full of water and choose where to soak the other team’s bridge. If both bridges stand, we will go another round. Whoever’s bridge lasts the longest wins. Makes sense?

“Let’s build!”

Give supplies to partners and have them build. This should go rather quickly. Once the bridges are built, the partners can place the weights.

After the build, lead them through using the water dropper on the other team’s bridge. Do this until someone’s bridge breaks.

(After the game) “Oh, wow! That was a close one! Great job, teams! That was a lot of fun. Alright, let’s all stand up and worship God together!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: THIS IS LIVING NOW, BURN)

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(SLIDE: LIFE APP, 3 SUPERHERO AND VILLAIN SLIDES)

(No Supplies)

“Let’s try something. Close your eyes for a moment. Seriously. Everyone, even the Small Group Leaders. Okay, are they closed? Now imagine that you are in the lunch room at school. You are sitting there having a good time with your friends, enjoying some chicken fingers, fries, and chocolate milk. All of the sudden, out of the corner of your eye, you see the biggest, meanest kid at your school lunging at you with a bowl full of chocolate pudding. Before you can move, the pudding hits you in the side of the face, cascading down you like Niagara Falls.

“What do you do next? OK, you can open your eyes. Turn to your neighbor and tell the person next to you the first thing that came to mind.

Give them a moment to share.

“Okay, now I have another question. How many of you would say that your response in some way involved getting back at the person? You know, like throwing food at them, yelling at them, or something along those lines?

Pause for responses.

“Interesting. And how many of you would say that your response did *not* involve getting back at them? Maybe you chose to walk away, go somewhere else, or something like *that*?

Pause for responses.

“Okay, thanks. Now, one more question. Did anyone wonder about how it happened?

Pause for responses.

“Interesting! Maybe a few of you, but it seems like most just assumed this person did it on purpose. Why? Maybe it was because I said they were the biggest, meanest kid in the school. Maybe it’s because I used the word ‘lunging.’ But what if I told you they tripped over someone’s foot? What if I said that the whole pudding incident was an accident? I guess we’ll never know, right?

“When it comes to situations like this, we often assume the worst in people. We want to see them get hurt or embarrassed as much as we are in that moment. Why is that? Chances are, most of us have faced a situation like this. It doesn’t have to be a physical fight, but we probably can remember a time when we decided to fight with someone when we probably should have walked away. So what makes us stay and fight instead? And while sometimes it’s important to stand up

for ourselves, how do we know when we should stand up for ourselves or when we should walk away? That's exactly what we are talking about today. Let's watch The So & So Show."

BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: SO & SO SHOW; SLIDES: KEY QUESTION, BASIC TRUTH)

(VIDEO: THE SO & SO SHOW)

"Now, I don't know about you, but for me there were a lot of surprising moments when I thought Isaac would have reacted differently. He certainly wasn't treated WELL—pun intended—when the Philistines poured dirt in his water, and when the king sent him away, and then when they claimed the wells he had freshly dug. I expected him to get angry and take revenge, maybe even go pour dirt in their wells or at least take their camels or something! But instead, he walked away from a fight. And in the end, it made a big difference. In fact, it led to peace.

"Maybe you've had a similar situation. Okay, I mean, I'm guessing nobody dumped dirt in your earthen well, but maybe you were in a soccer game and the opposing player kept kicking you and pushing you on purpose when the ref wasn't looking. They were trying to get you upset, and it took everything in you not to take the bait.

"Or maybe it's your sibling. They know just what to say and exactly how to say it to get you all fired up. No matter how much you want to ignore them, you find yourself just wanting to retaliate.

"You know, it may seem like the strong thing to do—the tough thing to do—is to fight, but that isn't always true. Sometimes it takes a lot more strength and courage to make peace than it does to fight. Choosing to walk away from a fight is 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.

"Before we review the memory verse, pray, and head to our small groups - think on this question...

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) "When should you walk away from a fight?"

"In other words, when have you found yourself in a situation where you should have walked away? Maybe you currently find yourself in a difficult spot with someone where it is hard to make peace. How can you respond? How should you respond? Those might be difficult questions for you to answer, and that's okay, too. Relationships can be great, but they can also be pretty messy. That's why I'm so thankful for our Small Groups where we can hang out with each other, help each other, and pray for each other."

MEMORY VERSE

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)

“Our verse is this:

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*

Key Question: When should you walk away from a fight?

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)

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.)*

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

(Bibles, 2 Yardsticks, 4 Buckets with Handles, “Water Cards” Activity Page – 2 Sets per Group, 2 Hula Hoops or Tape)

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible and look up Romans 12:18. Read the verse together. (For an added challenge, skip this part until after the game.)
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Set out two hula hoops (or 2 tape circles), “wells,” and in each hoop scatter one set of “Water Cards.”
- Gather teams together, each team a good distance from their hula hoop.
- Give each team a yardstick and two buckets.
- Give kids some time to practice balancing the two buckets on the ends of the yardstick. Explain that this is how people carry water from a well back to their homes.
- Lead the group in a relay race:
 - Kids take turns balancing the buckets on the yardstick, racing to the “well,” putting a “Water Card” in each bucket and racing back to their team.
 - Kids dump out the buckets and pass the yardstick and the buckets to the next kid in line, who then races to the “well” to pick up two cards.
 - As cards are being dumped out, teams can start putting the verse in the correct order.
 - The first team to put the cards in the correct order of the verse wins.
 - To increase the challenge, don’t tell teams what the verse is and provide Bibles so when they get the reference card they can look up the verse to put the cards in the right order.
 - *If you have a smaller group, consider having them work as a team and time them to see how quickly they can do the activity.*
- Gather the group together and read Romans 12:18. Ask:

- What does this verse say about peace? (Encourage kids to put the verse in their own words.)
- Encourage kids to think back about Isaac. Tell them that there will be times when, just like Isaac, you try to keep the peace by walking away and things don't immediately become peaceful. What can you do when you try to live in peace and it still seems like things aren't peaceful?
 - For example, what if a friend is mad at you and you say you're sorry and your friend is still mad? *(This is an opportunity to remind kids that Jesus is the ultimate peacemaker. Sometimes we try to make peace and it doesn't work, but we do what we can and we trust God no matter what. As much as it depends on us, we live in peace with those around us.)*

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

(Preteen 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