



PEACE | WEEK 3 | APRIL 17-18, 2021

Virtual 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*

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

Basic Truth: **I am made 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)

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.

SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY AND DISCUSSION

(Ask families to have a few items kids can toss, and a container for those items. (e.g., balled-up socks and a laundry basket, large marshmallows and a kitchen mixing bowl, ping pong or tennis balls and a laundry basket or empty storage tub)

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you choose, consider using an icebreaker question to get kids talking.
- Practice saying the memory verse together.
- If you've chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you've given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled (Video found at theparenthub.net).

Activity:

What You Do:

- Play a quick game to get kids up and moving.
- Instruct them to get their "tossing supplies" and container.
- Tell them they're going to try to be the first person to successfully toss six items (or toss an item six times) into their container, from about 10 feet away.
- The catch is that they have to do this from three different positions, just like Isaac had wells/land in three different locations.
- They'll start in the first position, 10 feet away from their container, and toss two items.
- Then they should move to another position, staying 10 feet away from their container, but at a different spot or different angle.
- Continue until they've tossed two items from that third position.
- The first person to make it back to their device and yell "Dig those wells!" is the winner!
- (Tell kids they're on the honor system. If you choose, ask parents/other adults to monitor the game from their in-person location, to make sure their kid is following the rules.)
- If kids have less than six of their tossing items, they can simply retrieve them from the container or floor nearby whenever needed.
- After the game, guide the group to retell the story in their own words, going around with each kid adding one sentence to the synopsis.
- If they have Bibles nearby, let kids open them to Genesis 26 so they can make sure they cover all the details.

What You Say:

Ask:

- How did Isaac and his servants keep the peace by walking away from a fight?
- *Read Genesis 26:16.* How does this verse describe Isaac? (*powerful*)
- So if Isaac was powerful and he had done nothing wrong, why do you think he moved? (*This is an opportunity to talk about how walking away from a fight doesn't mean you are weak.*)
- 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.*)

Close your group in prayer:

"God, as we learn about Isaac today, we realize sometimes walking away from a fight is the way to live in peace. It is hard to do that, especially when we think we are right. God, help us to see people and situations the way You see them. Help us to remember how important peace is to You. Peace is so important You sent Jesus to show us how to live in peace with one another and to give us a way to live with You, in peace, now and forever. In Jesus' name we pray! Amen!"