

City SG—April 17th-19th, 2021

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

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

Monthly 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)

1. Peace Is Better

What You Need: Hand sanitizer, small ball (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Help kids apply hand sanitizer.
- Stand in the middle of your environment and guide kids to gather around you.
- Briefly unpack the truth that sometimes we need to stand up for ourselves and others. Like Isaac, we can also be strong enough to walk away from a fight—even if it means that we don't get what we want. Peace is better for everyone.
- Read a scenario below, then toss the ball into the air.
- Guide kids to quickly walk away from the fight (the ball).
 - Someone makes a face at you in the cafeteria.
 - Someone cuts in front of you in line.
 - At a party, there are four cookies left. The kid in front of you takes THREE!
 - While you're at the park, someone calls you a name.
 - When your sister divides the leftover Easter candy, she takes more for herself and doesn't give you as much as she has.
 - The kid behind you on the bus keeps kicking the seat, trying to annoy you.
 - At recess, someone pushes by you to get the last swing.
- When you catch or retrieve the ball again, call out, "FREEZE!"
- Guide kids to fill in the blanks as you say the Bottom Line: You can show you care about others by walking _____ from a _____. As kids learn the Bottom Line, you can also omit "care" and "others."
- Guide kids to return to the center between rounds.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] "You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight. Sometimes that can be hard, but God can help you. You can walk away from a fight when someone calls you a name. You can walk away from a fight when someone cuts in line. And you can walk away from a fight when something isn't fair."

"Now, there are times when you DO need to stand up for what's right. Like if someone is unkind to your friends, if someone is being a bully, or if someone hurts you or someone else. If you aren't sure when to stand up and when to walk away, talk to an adult you trust. They can help."

2. Let Go!

What You Need: “Peacemaking Opportunities” Activity Page (1 per Group)

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.**”

3. Peace Skills

What You Need: “Peace Skills” Activity Page (1 per Group), hula hoops (3 per Group), green and blue sheets of paper (4 sheets of one color per kid), white floor tape

What You Do:

- Position two strips of white floor on the floor, seven feet apart.
- Divide the kids into two teams – Blue and Green
- Ask each team to pick a side and line up on the tape.
- Instruct teams to face each other.
- Give each kid on Team One, four full sheets of blue paper.
- Give each kid on Team Two, four full sheets of green paper.
- Ask kids to tear each sheet into four pieces and wad them into balls. Each kid will have sixteen paper balls.
- When the kids are finished:
 - Set a hula hoop on the floor between the two teams.
 - Tell the kids that it is the “Builds Peace Well.”
 - Set one hula hoop behind each team.
 - Tell the kids that those two hula hoops are “Starts a Fight Wells.”

- Tell the kids that you will share sixteen words and phrases.
 - If they feel the word or phrase would help them resolve a situation peacefully, they should toss one of their wads of paper into the “Builds Peace Well” between the two teams.
 - If they feel the word or phrase would cause a situation to turn into a fight, they should toss one of their wads of paper behind them into the “Starts a Fight Well.”
 - To make it more challenging, kids should throw the wad of paper behind them without looking.
- Pause after sharing each word or phrase to give the kids a chance to share why they feel the word or phrase would start a fight or bring a peaceful resolution.
- In the end, declare a winner. The team with the most balls in the “Builds Peace Well,” wins.

What You Say:

“Wow! You did an incredible job identifying which actions can cause a fight and which actions can help build peace. Who remembers this month’s Bible verse? Our verse tells us that we must build each other up.

“Which ‘Well’ do you think had action words that could help us build each other up? That’s right! All the words or phrases that you tossed in the ‘Builds Peace Well’ are action words that build others up. When we build each other up, it leads to peace.

“Can you recall some of those action words or phrases that can help you **[Bottom Line] show you care about others by walking away from a fight?** (Pause for responses.) Great job! When you use words that AREN’T in the ‘Starts a Fight Wells’ and practice the actions associated with ‘Builds Peace Well,’ **[Bottom Line] you can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.** Let’s practice doing that this week!”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: “Peace Skills” Activity Page from previous activity

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to circle up.
- Read the words and phrases associated with building peace from the “Peace Skills” Activity Page.
- Encourage the kids to listen carefully and identify one word or phrase they want to practice this week so they can walk away from a fight.
- Close with prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for reminding us through the story of Isaac that our relationships with others are WAY more important than winning an argument or fight. Help us have the assurance that You see our peace-making efforts and honor them, even when we don’t always see immediate results. Help us practice the action word we each chose this week to prove we care more about others by walking away from a fight. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

HAND OUT GOD TIME CARDS

Children will receive a prize when they bring their God Time Cards back the following week!