

Alley Rundown—April 17th-19th, 2021

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

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

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

Monthly Memory Verse: Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. *Romans 14:19 (NIV)*

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

Pre-Service: Activity: Paper Towel Bridge

Supplies Needed: 5 feet of Paper Towel (2 pieces per service), 2 Stools/chairs (in Room), Packing Tape (2 Rolls per Campus), foam bricks (20 per Campus), Spray Bottle (2 per Campus)

"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!"

Chooses volunteers for a bridge-building challenge.

"Alright, here's the challenge. Take this piece of paper towel and build a bridge that spans from this chair to this chair. You may not move the chairs. You must securely tape the ends of 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 10 bricks 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 spray bottle. Each team will give the other team's bridge one spray from the bottle, wherever they choose. If both bridges stand, we will go another round. Whoever's bridge lasts the longest wins. Makes sense?"

"Let's build!"

Give supplies to kids and have them build. This should go rather quickly. Once the bridges are built, the kids can place the foam bricks. After the build, use the spray bottle on the bridges. 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 get started with our talk today!"

"Attention all you amazing 5th Graders! This announcement is for you. Coming up next month is an awesome opportunity for you to get a chance to check out JHM. It's called Level Up! Take a look at this video!"

CG: Level Up! Promo Video

“Hey, everyone! Glad to see you here today. 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 lunchroom 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?”

“Let’s be honest. That’s a hard question. When we have big questions like this, the first place we should turn is the Bible. The people who wrote the Bible experienced God firsthand and were inspired to write down those experiences for us to understand more about how God wants us to live. When we read the Bible, it’s like we get to hear from God. Today’s story is one of those moments that can help us when we face a question just like this.”

“We head WAY back in the Old Testament to the first book of the Bible: Genesis. Genesis is a book of beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of people, and the beginning of

an important nation. This nation is called Israel. But at this point in Israel's story, we don't see a nation yet. At this point, we have a family. The nation of Israel started with God calling one man to be His follower. Does anyone know who I'm talking about? (*Pause for responses.*) Right, Abraham! He started out as Abram, but God changed his name along the way—let's take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:00)

"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 still 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. That's what our Bible Verse for this month reminds us of:

Monthly Memory Verse: Let us therefore make **every effort** to do what leads to peace and to **mutual edification**. *Romans 14:19 (NIV)*

EVERY EFFORT: Do what it takes even when it seems impossible.

MUTUAL EDIFICATION: Being together in building each other up.

"Today as you go to groups, I want you to talk about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question Slide

"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. In fact, before we head to Small Groups, let's pray right now and ask God to help us make peace with the people in our lives."

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, dismiss kids to give their offering and then go to Small Group.