

Alley SG—April 17th-19th, 2021

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Hula hoops (3 per Group), “Sentence Cards” (3 sets per group), **Peace Is** and **Peace is Not** Signs (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Set three hula hoops in a line on the ground, not touching.
- Place “PEACE IS . . .” sign in the end hula hoop.
- Place “PEACE IS NOT . . .” sign in the other end, leaving the middle hula hoop empty.
- 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.)***

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Hula hoops (4 per group), bean bags (4 per group), Bibles, phone timer

What You Do:

- Set out four hula hoops in a square formation; place a bean bag in each hoop.
- Tell kids that the hula hoops are “wells” and the bean bags are “dirt.”
- Assign a kid to each “well” and guide them to get on their hands and knees behind their “well.”
- When you say “Go,” kids should get in a push-up or plank position and race to toss their bean bag, or “dirt,” into someone else’s “well.”
- The object is to have an empty “well” when time runs out.
- For a visual, head to: <https://bit.ly/3gk2y94>
- Rules of the game:
 - Each round is 30-60 seconds long.

- Encourage kids to toss the bean bags so the bags land IN the hoops. If a bean bag is tossed out of the hula hoop, the kid who tossed it must go retrieve it and try again.
- When time runs out, kids receive a point for each bean bag in their hula hoop.
- Play several rounds and keep a tally of the points. After several rounds, declare the kid (or team) with the *fewest* points the winner.
- For each round, change the position kids start in, e.g. on one foot, kneeling, like a crab.
- Be prepared to adjust the time given for the round depending on the starting position.
- When the game is over, review the Bible story using the following as a guide:
 - Let the group retell the story in their own words, going around the circle with each kid adding a sentence to the synopsis.
 - How did Isaac and his servants keep the peace by walking away from a fight?
 - To dig deeper, read: Genesis 26:16–When Abimelek asked Isaac to move, how did Isaac keep the peace?
 - 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.*)
 - Imagine you are working on a group project with a partner. You do most of the work and your partner gets an “A” too, even though they didn't really help with the project.
 - How do you keep the peace?
 - What if this isn't the first group project you have done with your partner?
 - What if this has happened several times before? Does that affect the way you might choose to keep the peace?

3. Discussion Questions

- 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.*)

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, yardsticks (2 per Group), buckets (4 per Group), two sets of “Water Cards” Activity Page (1 set per Group), hula hoops (2 from Earlier Activities)

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, “wells,” and in each hoop scatter one set of “Water Cards.”
- Gather teams together, each team across the room 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.
- 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.)*

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: “Peace Cards” (1 card per kid), pens, Sentence Cards from Act. 1

What You Do:

- Give kids a “Peace Card.”
- Give kids to some quiet time to reflect on when it’s hard for them to live in peace with a friend or someone in their family.
- Encourage them to think about the “Peace is . . .” and “Peace is not . . .” statements from the earlier activity. If you choose, set out the “Sentence Cards” to prompt kids.
- Encourage kids to use the “Peace Card” to write a prayer asking God for His help to do what they can to show peace.
- Gather kids together and let them share or ask questions about their thoughts. Don’t pressure anyone to share what they wrote.
- Ask: If you struggle with walking away from a fight, maybe you like to be right, or you can’t figure out when you should walk away from a fight to show someone you care about them, where could you go to find answers? *(This is an opportunity to help kids realize they aren’t alone; they have people in their lives to help them process what it means to honor God by living in peace. It is also an opportunity to emphasize that the stories and people in the Bible are great tools to teach us what it looks like to live in peace.)*
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“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!”