



WEEK
THREE
APRIL 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Two small water bottles and six buckets

WHAT YOU DO:

- Demonstrate to the group how to play the game.
 - Select three buckets and turn them upside down on the floor of your small group's area.
 - Place the water bottle under one of the buckets.
 - Mix up the buckets rapidly by pushing them along the floor.
 - After a minute or so of shuffling, let one of the kids guess which bucket has the water bottle under it.
- Once kids have had a demonstration, divide the group into two teams.
- Line the two teams up facing each other.
- Give each team three buckets and a water bottle.
- Choose a team to go first.
- Instruct the first kid on the first team to face the first kid on the opposing team.
- Direct that kid to move the buckets around (with the water bottle under one of them) until you say, "Stop!"
- Instruct the first kid from the opposing team to guess which bucket hides the water. If they are correct, their team gets a point.
- Direct that kid to shuffle their team's buckets and water bottle for the second kid on the other team.
- As long as time and interest allow, continue having each team shuffle the buckets for a member of the opposite team to guess where the water bottle is.
- Any correct guess gets a point for their team, and the team with the most points, wins!

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, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Finding water was a confusing task in this game, but in Old Testament times, finding and keeping sources of water was one of the most important issues for people's entire lives. **[Transition] Let's go hear how the search for water gave someone a unique opportunity to make peace.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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THE SHORTEST PLAY IN HISTORY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "The Shortest Play in History Script" Activity Page, construction paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of construction paper.
- Direct the kids to pleat their paper like an accordion, lengthwise.
- Instruct the kids to pinch their paper in the middle and hold it that way. It should look like a bow.
- Show the kids different ways to hold their "prop" for the play.
 - Under the nose like a mustache for Mr. Philistine who says, "You MUST leave the wells."
 - Held at the side of the head like a hair bow for the Servant who says, "But I WON'T leave the wells."
 - Under the chin like a bow tie for Isaac who says, "I'LL leave the wells!"
- Run through the script a couple of times until the kids can retell the story on their own.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Isaac could have gone to war with his neighbors over keeping his wells. But later on in the story, the king of the Philistines comes to make peace with him. Do you think that would have happened if Isaac had fought over his wells?
(Pause for responses.)

"Isaac's refusal to fight eventually led to peace which let Isaac and his family thrive on the land. He showed us that **you can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.**

"Have you ever felt like Isaac—like someone is trying to take what's yours? Maybe it's a brother or sister who always borrows your stuff, or a neighbor who comes over just because he wants to shoot hoops. You could INSIST on hanging onto your things or changing the game when you get bored. But, like Isaac, how could you show you cared about them and peace, in the long run?"
(Invite answers.)

[Make It Personal] (Share a time when you gave up your "rights" to something to preserve the peace, like letting someone else have first pick, sharing the credit at work, or doing an extra job around the house. How did you make that decision? What happened afterwards?)



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**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



BRIDGE OVER GEOMETRIC WATERS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bridge Coloring Page" Activity Pages, crayons, markers, or colored pencils, regular pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- For younger kids (kindergarten through 3rd grade), pass out the "Bridge Coloring Page, Younger Version" and let them color by numbers.
- For 4th and 5th graders, pass out the "Bridge Coloring Page, Older Version."
- Direct the older kids to design and color a bridge over water or a valley, using the triangle pattern like a "color by numbers" grid.
- Pass out a second coloring page and help the older kids make that page into a blank "color by numbers" activity that a friend could follow to make a picture just like the one they made on the first coloring page.

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War and Peace

Isaac's Wells
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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Did you notice anything about the pattern on your papers? It's made of many triangles! The triangle is the strongest shape for building, and many engineers use it when they design bridges.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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

"We can use the shape of a triangle to help us remember to build peace. A triangle has three corners. We can put ourselves at one corner; our friends, family, and neighbors at the other; and God at the top. (*Demonstrate on one of the triangles on a paper.*) That is a very strong way to build peace! God is at the top because God is the source of peace. God can give you the strength to walk away from a fight and make peace.

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, NIV

"There are times when building peace is really hard! Have you ever had to walk away from a fight? (*Invite conversation.*)

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Peace—Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

"Instead of wrecking your relationships with other people by fighting and burning all your bridges, you can be a bridge-builder and make peace! **You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.**"

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Are there times when you have to make peace by sticking up for someone instead of walking away from a fight? What does that look like?
- How do you know when to walk away and when to stay put? Who can you talk to if you face that kind of situation?



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MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



PEACE IS BETTER
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Hand sanitizer, small ball

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids apply hand sanitizer.
- Stand in the middle of your environment and guide kids

to gather around you. If you have tables or chairs, move them to the side if possible.

- 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.

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BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“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.”





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



**PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]**

WHAT YOU NEED: Folded construction paper from “The Shortest Play in History,” and pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid the folded paper they used in Activity 1.
- Ask the kids to unfold their piece of paper and smooth it out.
- Pass out the pens or pencils and encourage kids to write one way they can build peace by walking away from a fight this week: letting someone else have a turn, sharing generously, etc.
- When they are finished, ask the kids to refold their paper and place it somewhere they will see it this week and remember that **you can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.**
- Close in prayer.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

“Dear God, thank You for being with us and giving us the strength we need to make peace with others by walking away from fights in our lives. Please help us put our friendship with You and other people first and ourselves second this week. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure kids take home their folded papers and that the older kids have their give-away color by number papers to share with a friend this week.

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