

# Walk Like a Peacemaker

**Bible Story:** Walk Like a Peacemaker (Isaac's Wells) • *Genesis 26:1-6, 16-22, 26-31*

**Bottom Line:** Prove you care about others by walking away from a fight.

**Memory Verse:** "So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build each other up." *Romans 14:19, NIRV*

**Life App:** Peace—proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

## Plug In: Focus the Energy (Small Groups, 10-15 minutes)

Focus the energy on today's Bible story in a Small Group setting with an engaging discussion question and an interactive opening activity.

*Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that kids would begin to recognize those moments in their lives when it's more important to keep the peace than to stand their ground and start or continue a fight. Ask God to bring these situations to kids' minds as they hear the Bible story today and as they have conversations in Small Group. Pray for wisdom as you guide these conversations.*

### 1. Early Arriver Idea

**What You Need:** An offering container

#### What You Do:

Collect kids' offerings as they arrive. Then talk to them about fighting. Ask questions such as: When I say the word "fight," what's the first thing that comes to mind? Do you think of a physical fight or an argument? Do either or both of those make you nervous? Why or why not? Which kind of fight is "worse" to you? Why?

### 2. Walk Away

**What You Need:** White board (or butcher paper)

#### What You Do:

As a group, make a list of things that are really hard to walk away from. These will be things that take a lot of self-control to just leave them there or leave them alone, such as dessert, money, or a present with your name on it, etc.

### 5-6 Challenge: Optional Tech Adaption

**What You Need:** Mobile device with app such as "Pic Collage"

Instead of writing your list on a butcher paper, use technology to create a collage. On a mobile device, use a photo app like "Pic Collage" to create a collage of things that are hard to walk away from.

**What You Say:**

“We came up with a great list! Those things are tough to walk away from, for sure. I mean, why would we ever need to walk away from chocolate cake anyway, right? How about a fight? Do you think it’s hard to walk away from a fight, especially when you know that you’re right? **[Transition] Well, there’s someone in the Bible that had to walk away from the same fight more than once. Talk about hard! Let’s go hear about it.**”

## Lead your group to the Large Group area.

### **Catch On: Make the Connection (Small Groups, 25-30 minutes)**

Make the connection of how today’s Bible story applies to real life experiences through interactive activities and discussion questions.

#### **1. What is Peace? (application activity) *good second option***

**What You Need:** 15- 20 pieces of construction paper, markers

**What You Do:**

Divide the kids into groups of two or three. Have each group make an acrostic poem about peace. Give each group five pieces of construction paper and a marker and have them write one letter from the word ‘peace’ on each page. Tell the kids to use words that start with each letter of the word to define or explain peace. Have the kids share their PEACE acrostics with each other.

## Example:

Proving to  
Everyone  
Around that you  
Care  
Enough to walk away from a fight

**5-6 Challenge:** Instead of a simple acrostic poem, have kids try their hand at writing a peace song. They can take a familiar melody like “Row, Row, Row Your Boat,” “Three Blind Mice,” a worship song, or the theme to a popular TV show and write new lyrics that talk about peace and incorporate today’s bottom line: **[Impress] prove you care about others by walking away from a fight.**

**What You Say:**

“It’s easier to do something and put it into practice when we really understand it. What better way to understand peace than to put it in our own words? You guys came up with some great poems (*or songs*)! But now how can you put it into practice? How can you make peace really happen in your life? One thing you can always do is to **[Impress] prove you care about others by walking away from a fight. [Apply] How would walking away from a fight prove to someone that you care? (Pause for responses.) How does walking away from a fight lead to peace? (Pause for responses.)** That’s right! God wants us to be peaceful and prove to others that we care, which is going to mean walking away from a fight ... even when we’re right!”

## ★2. Respond with Peace (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

**What You Need:** Bibles, white board (or butcher paper), marker

### What You Do:

Read today's story aloud from the Bible (Genesis 26:1-6, 16-22, 26-31). Then ask the following review questions:

- 1) Why did Isaac have to leave?
- 2) How did he react?
- 3) What happened after they dug the first well?
- 4) How did Isaac react?
- 5) What happened after they dug the second well?
- 6) How did Isaac react?
- 7) What happened after they dug the third well?
- 8) How did Isaac react?

Then, as a group, make a two-column list on the white board (or butcher paper). Each person gets to write one example on the board. Explain that in the first column, each person should write something that has happened to him that wasn't right or is an example of how he was mistreated. In the second column, he should write down how he can respond with peace (or how he did or should have responded with peace).

**5-6 Challenge:** Instead of reading the story to the kids, have your group break up into two teams. Give them each a Bible. Have them read the story as a group and brainstorm review questions. Instruct them to quiz each other and try to stump each other on the details of the story. Once they are finished with the quiz game, and then continue with the rest of the activity. If you have time, let kids share a moment when they wanted to fight but instead chose to walk away and make peace.

### What You Say:

"Isaac is a really great example for all of us. He kept digging those wells and walking away from a fight in order to keep the peace, and it eventually led to an official peace agreement. ***[Apply] It's just like the ideas we brainstormed. Even though it might not seem fair or right, God wants us to choose peace, no matter what. [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a moment when you really wanted to fight but you chose peace instead. Make sure you tell them how it all turned out.)*** You can ***[Impress] prove you care about others by walking away from a fight.*** And you never know what good things may come from it!"

## 3. Digging for Peace (*memory verse activity / great for active learners*)

**What You Need:** Prepared cups, plastic tub, marker, Bible, hand wipes

### What You Do:

Give each kid a cup. Explain that they will take turns digging to the bottom of it to see what word is on the inside bottom of the cup. They should hold the cup over the tub while they dig, but the goal is to let as little spill as possible. Once they find the word, they need to write it on the outside of the cup. When they have the words written on all the cups, tell them to work together to arrange the cups in the correct order of the Memory Verse. Use a Bible to help or to check their work once they're done.

### What You Say:

“Isaac had to keep digging wells. We had to dig to see our verse. Digging can be hard work, but when you find water or have a hole deep enough to plant flowers or a tree, the result is worth the effort. It can also be hard to do everything we can to live in peace. **[Apply] But working to make peace not only proves to others that we care about them. It also helps them experience Jesus’ love.** How can you dig for peace in your home? What about in your classroom? or on the bus? or on your team? Remember, **[Impress] prove you care about others by walking away from a fight.**”

*If you lead mostly older kids, consider asking these discussion questions:*

- Imagine someone came to you for advice in the following situation: They are doing everything they can to live in peace with someone at school but the other person isn’t trying to make peace at all. What do you think they should do? Why should one still try to live in peace even if the other person doesn’t care about it?
- If someone doesn’t want to live in peace, then what might they think if you walk away from a fight? How can you make a difference by walking away?

## **Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** Index cards and pencils *(for 5-6 Challenge only) provided*

### **What You Do:**

Ask everyone to pick a partner and find a spot to sit down together. Tell everyone to remind their partner about the conflict they wrote on the white board during the Bible story review and to give a little bit of detail about it. Then take turns praying for each other about the conflict. Ask them to pray for courage to walk away from a fight and respond in peace instead.

**5-6 Challenge:** Have kids write down their prayer requests on an index card. Pair kids up and have them swap cards and pray for each other. They can take their cards home and put them in a place where they’ll see it everything. When they notice the card, they can pray for their friends throughout the week.

### **What You Say:**

“Praying for each other is a great way to encourage each other and work for peace, just like our verse talks about this month. **[Apply] I want you all to remember to pray for your partner at least one more time this week, AND remember, if you find yourself in a situation or a conflict, you can pray then too. Ask God to help you walk away from a fight and choose peace. He’d love to help!** You **[Impress] prove you care about others by walking away from a fight.** Choose peace instead of needing to win the argument.”

## **FOR LEADERS ONLY**

**GOD VIEW:** the connection between **PEACE** and God’s character,  
as shown through God’s big story

When sin entered God’s magnificent paradise, our relationship with Him was broken. God’s love for us was so great that He was willing to sacrifice to restore the relationship. God proved He cared about peace when He sent His Son to pay for our sins.

Peace is part of God's character. He wants us to reflect peace in our relationships with others. **Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.**

Peace is more than just "not fighting" and saying the right things to keep people happy. Peace is living in a way that shows you care more about others than about being right. It's about building strong relationships through mutual trust.

A person who lacks peace may have an argumentative spirit or feel like they always need the final word or may just seem like they're angry all of the time. An attitude like that often leads to broken relationships with others.

When our relationships are broken, we often find ourselves avoiding other people. We know when we need to work at a relationship, but it's easier to ignore what's going on and sweep it under the rug. Working at the relationship is hard work. It will cost us something. It will take time, swallowing our pride, and often it will mean walking away from the chance to prove we're "right."

But peace is worth the effort.

*This month, let's think about how:*

*(1) God demonstrated peace by sending Jesus to pay the price for our sin, which allowed the chance for our relationship with Him to be restored.*

*(2) The Bible challenges us to reflect this kind of peace by working towards reconciliation with others.*

*(3) As we show peace in our own lives, we build our relationships on trust, which in turn makes achieving peace easier during those times when we mess up.*

### **This week, we're discovering:**

In **Genesis 26:1-6, 12-22, and 26-31**, Isaac settles in his father's land and reopens some wells. When his new neighbors argue with him, he simply moves to a new place and digs new wells. Isaac had every right to fight for those wells, but he chose peace instead.

Our Bottom Line is: **prove you care about others by walking away from a fight.** Sometimes making 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.

The monthly memory verse is: **"So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build each other up."** **Romans 14:19, NIRV** Living in peace can be hard work. But when we fight for our relationships instead of fighting to be right, we start to reflect the character of God to those around us.