

## **SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)**

**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)

**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.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help kids discern when something is worth fighting over and when it's not. Ask God to give kids the wisdom to know when they should stand up for someone else. Pray that kids would develop the maturity to walk away from a potential fight in order to keep peace with those around them. Ask God to help kids see that it takes a lot of strength to walk away from a fight; not the other way around.*

### **1. Early Arriver**

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** Offering container, hand sanitizer

#### **What You Do:**

- Greet the kids by name as they arrive.
- Encourage the kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Direct each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Tell the kids they're going to play a different version of "Freeze."
- Invite two kids to stand in front of the group.
- Ask the two kids to act-out a simple scene like:
  - driving a car
  - watching a movie
  - walking a dog
- Tell the two actors that they can talk to each other during this round.
- Inform the kids that while the actors act, anyone from the group can yell, "Freeze!" Then the two actors freeze in place.
- When the actors are frozen, ask another kid to go to the front and point to one of the actors.
- Whoever they point to goes back to their seat.
- Instruct the new actor to act-out a new scene without explaining to the other actor what they're doing.
- Direct the second actor to adapt to the new scene.
- Continue playing until everyone has had a chance to act.
- Mix things up by throwing suggestions to the actors like, "It's raining" or "Look out, a car is coming!"

## 2. Opening Activity

*Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Prepared wax or parchment paper, straws, water, and dropper or extra straw

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a prepared piece of wax or parchment paper and a straw.
- Ask the kids to set up their wax paper so the start line is closest to them.
- With a dropper or one of the straws, drop a small dot of water on each kid's starting line.
- Inform the kids that once you say, "Go," they will gently blow into the straw to race their droplet to the finish line.
- The first kid to get their droplet to the finish line, wins.
- Continue racing until it's time to go to Large Group.
- If time allows, try different variations of the game:
  - Blow the droplet to the finish line and back.
  - Blow hard into the straw to discover how the droplet splits in two from the pressure of the air. When you stop blowing, the droplet becomes one again.
  - Race two or more droplets simultaneously.

### What You Say:

"That was a fun way to play with water! **[Transition]** Today, we'll hear about a man named Isaac who got into a big water problem. Let's find out what happened!"

# PLAY BIBLE VIDEO

## GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

### 1. Digging Up Those Wells

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group*

**What You Need:** "Answer Key" Activity Page, "Question Cards" Activity Page, prepared "well" cups, pen

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a prepared "Well" cup and a pen.
- Explain that when you say, "Go," the kids will dig through their "Well" cup to find the question buried in it.
- The goal is to dig through the "Well" cup with little or no spills.
- Instruct the kids that once they find the question, they can write the answer to the question on their cup. (Be available to help kids with the spelling of certain answers.)
- End by asking the kids to take turns sharing their questions and answers with the group.

*Note: In addition to the question, each cup also has three blank folded slips of paper to make it difficult for the kids to dig up the question.*

### **What You Say:**

“How difficult was it to find the question without spilling the contents of the cup? *(Pause for responses.)* Digging wells is a lot of work. Isaac kept digging wells and walking away from a fight to keep the peace. How would you have reacted if you were Isaac? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“Isaac is a great example for all of us! He trusted God, and this gave him the ability to confidently walk away from a fight each time. It definitely wasn’t fair! Isaac could have stayed and fought for what was his. But he knew that keeping peace was more important than keeping those wells. Just like God honored Isaac’s efforts and blessed him in the end, He will honor your efforts to make peace with others, too.

***[Make it Personal]*** *(Tell kids about a time when you really wanted to fight, but you chose peace instead. What creative solution did you use to bring peace? How did it make you feel?)*

***[Bottom Line]*** “You can show you care about others by walking away from a fight.”

## **2. Let Go!**

### **[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** “Peacemaking Opportunities” Activity Page

### **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

#### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** “Peace Skills” Activity Page, hula hoops, green and blue sheets of paper, painter’s tape

#### What You Do:

- Position two strips of painter’s tape on the floor, seven feet apart.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- 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

##### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application*

**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.”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to share the word or phrase they chose to practice walking away from a fight this week.