

Just Walk Away

Bible: Jesus walks away from a mob Luke 4:14-30

Bottom Line: Choose to 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 up one another.” Romans 14:19, NIV

Life App: Peace—choosing to care more about each other than being right.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

Get Your Head in the Game

- Paper
- Pens

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Ice Cream Wars

- Piece of construction paper in 5 different colors; enough for each student to get one

11:15

Verses to Take with You

- No supplies needed

Prayer: Making it Personal (9:55, 11:10, 12:25)

- Lists from Opening Activity
- Pens

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 10 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's Bible Truth.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that God would give each kid the wisdom to know when walking away is the most peaceful thing to do. And pray that He would give them the courage to do it. Thank God for giving each of us His peace and allowing us to reflect it to others.

Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: Paper, pens

What You Do:

Give each child a sheet of paper and a pen. Ask them to think of a person that they have been angry with recently. Ask them to list all of the things they can think about that person. After they are done, ask them to write down how they handled the situation. What was their solution to the problem?

What You Say:

“We shouldn't walk away from certain things, such as a job that needs to be done or a situation where we can help. And it goes without saying that I'd never walk away from [name your favorite food or dessert]. ***[Transition]*** However, there **ARE** times when walking away is the best thing we can do, even if it's hard. Let's go to Large Group and find out when walking away is a good thing and when a messy situation might just be worth it in the end.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Tarp
- Huge clear plastic bin (as big as you can find)
- Enough cans of green peas to fill the plastic bin
- Peace sign necklaces (one per grade), marked with the grade numbers (could also use a necklace with the word “peace” or with a dove on it)
- Towel
- Mixing spoon
- Spray bottle of water
- Wet wipes
- Broom
- Dustpan

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Whiteboard
- Dry-erase marker

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- “I’m Gonna Walk”
- “Brighter”
- “We Believe”

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: 10-second countdown

Host enters.

Welcome

HOST: *Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to The Base. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. (NOTE: Something about school would be great to mention during the welcome.) Host tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what’s happening.*

Host transitions to Worship.

HOST: “Hey, everybody! I love that we are all here together. Help me welcome the Power Praise team in this morning.”

WORSHIP

Worship

POWER PRAISE: “Oh, yeah. It’s time for us to sing. C’mon, make some noise. *(Get a reaction.)* Awesome. Let’s have some fun with this one.”

SFX: “I’m Gonna Walk”

POWER PRAISE: “Wow, I think The Fort has some of the most energetic, most fun people ever. You guys can make anyone’s day brighter. You know, Jesus makes our day brighter. Let’s sing about that right now.”

SFS: “Brighter”

“Again, you guys are awesome. You know, when we don’t always know what to believe or what to do in

every situation, we can choose to trust and follow God. He will guide us and give us strength to be at peace with the world. Sing with us.”

SFX: “*We Believe*”

I know that God just loves it when we sing His praises and worship Him together. Thank you for doing that with us. Have a great week and we will see you soon!”

Power Praise exits as Host enters.

Opener

HOST: “I say it’s time for a game. I need a guy and a girl who are willing to get a little messy to dig for peace ... or do I mean peas?”

Pull out the huge cans of pre-opened peas and dump all but one of them out dramatically into the huge clear plastic bin. Then select one kid from each grade to come onstage.

“Mmmmm ... (optional: scoop up some peas and take a bite). Peace is delicious! (To contestants) And you guys are in for a treat. I have one of these peace signs for each of you (hold up the peace sign necklaces), which I’m going to bury in this vat of peas. (Stick the necklaces deep into the peas and mix it up really well.) When I say ‘go,’ you need to use your hands and dig like you’ve never dug before, until you get the peace sign with your grade on it. Are you guys ready to get peaceful? On your mark, get set, GO!

SFX: *Game show music*

Kids start digging through the vat of peas. After a few seconds, grab another can of peas and pour it into the bin (on top of their hands).

Congratulate the kids as they find their necklaces. Spray the necklaces off with a water bottle and get the kids to put them on. Give them wet wipes to clean up their arms and dismiss them to their seats.

“That was unbelievable! It smells really good up here, too. Thanks for digging for peas!

“If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you.”

Host exits as Communicator enters.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Good morning, everyone! It’s so good to see you today That was such a fun game. Choosing peace is something that can get very messy too sometimes because our feelings are usually involved. For the next six weeks we are going to be talking about Peace. Peace, is choosing to care more about each other than being right. Peace takes GUTS! Maybe you thought peace was something soft ... like unicorns and rainbows and cotton candy.

CG: Unicorn and rainbow picture (optional)

SFX: "Morning Mood" from Peer Gynt

"Maybe you think peace will make you a doormat, so everyone can just walk all over you.

CG: Peace Slide

"But NO! Peace is choosing to care more about each other than being right! Peace means doing something intense to keep your relationships strong with the people around you. Peace means walking away, giving up your rights, and letting go of your side of the story because you know the other person is more important. Choosing peace is one of the hardest things you'll ever do. But you know what? It's worth the risk, because it's what God WANTS you to do!

"We're actually going to let Jesus teach us how to choose peace by looking at what Jesus did and said to keep the peace when He was faced with certain emotions.

Most people know that Jesus is God's son and that he lived a perfect life, but we forget that he was also human. He had emotions like you and me. It's true! The history of his life tells us all about it. You know, there's a verse in Hebrews 4:15 that says

CG: Hebrews 4:15

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are –yet he did not sin."

Let me re-word that for you so it's easier to digest.

Jesus lived every day of his life with the same human emotions that you and I have. So he gets how hard it is to make good choices sometimes. But he is in a place to help us with that. He can help us choose peace even when we face hard choices. With His power, we can get through them without sinning. If you don't know, sinning is anything that we say, think, or do that separates us from God. And I don't know about you, but I need help from God when it comes to sin. Today, we're going to learn a way He helps us.

As we discover today's Bible Truth, I'm going to let you decide, as a group, which steps we take, kind of like a choose your own adventure book. After we make our choices, I'm going to clue you into what Jesus actually did.

Here we go, our Bible truth is found in the Book of Luke, chapter 4, verses 14-30. Jesus has been baptized, tempted by the devil, taught people, and now he's back in his home town of Nazareth. He's ready to start his journey, telling everyone about God, that He is the Son of God, and that He is the only way to get to Heaven. Well, that kind of power could lead some to feel like a super hero. Tell me, if you were Jesus, God's son, able to command the weather, animals, and angels to do whatever you wanted, how would you enter your hometown? *(Write some of the answers on the whiteboard.)*

Okay, cool. So, now you're in the town. Some people start to talk and whisper about how you are actually the son of Joseph, the carpenter. They say that you are not the Son of God. Let me clue you in

to something here. Back in those days, if you were part of a town, was like having a huge family. Everyone protected each other, they banded together. They knew each other like family. They remembered who played together, who got along better, who owed who money, and so on and so forth. Remembering that, what would you have done in response to people whispering about you? (*Write some of the responses on the board.*)

Interesting choice. Consider this though, now people are really mad. They're yelling, calling you a fake, telling you that you deserve to die, shaking their fists at you. They are closing in around you and you find yourself backing away until you are close to a cliff. If these people keep closing in on you, you are going to fall off of the cliff and die. If it was you, what would you do? (*Write the responses on the whiteboard.*)

You guys have an interesting imagination. Now, I'm going to show you a video of what Jesus actually did.

CG: Jesus walks away video

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Open your bibles to Luke 4:14-21

"He (Jesus) went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'"

For us, that's a drop the mic kind of moment. He rolled up into town like it was any other day, went to church, read from the bible and flat out told people 'This guy that Isaiah was prophecying about, the guy that would set people free from slavery, oppression, heal people and preach to all. That guy...that's me.'

Verses 22-30 tell us that the people were like, 'I mean, he's smart and he knows his scripture, but this kid grew up with us. He is Joseph's son. He is totally not the Son of God. No way' Jesus basically replied by telling them that they were too blind to what they knew to see the Truth, God's truth. Then they got mad and started arguing, pushing, shoving, basically mobbing until they had corralled Jesus to the edge of a cliff.

I am going to be honest with you and say that I'm not sure I would have walked away from that crowd. I might have been angry that they didn't believe me and if they were yelling at me and calling me names, I might have gotten even angrier and yelled back or worse. If I saw a cliff that I was about to fall down, I might have been so scared that I would have gotten even angrier and definitely would have started pushing back so that I could get away from the cliff. A lot of people could have gotten hurt.

Jesus, being the Son of God, could do all of those choices we had and more, but what did he choose to do? (*Pause for responses*) Yeah, he chose to walk away from the fight. He chose peace. He was faced

with an angry mob of people, ready to throw him off a cliff and He chose to care more about the people than being right and so He chose to walk away. (*Erase the board and write the word PEACE*) He chose, say it with me.

COMMUNICATOR AND KIDS: Peace!

COMMUNICATOR: “He chose peace. He chose to walk away instead of sticking around to prove himself right. Our bottom line today is **Choose to care about others by walking away from a fight.** That’s what Jesus did. That’s what God wants us to do.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Keeping the peace can get pretty messy. Sometimes it means walking away from a fight. That may not seem hard to do; it may seem like you’re not taking any kind of risk. But you know what? When it comes to our relationships with other people, sometimes walking away and giving up your rights can be the HARDEST thing to do.

“I want us to really understand our memory verse for the month. It is in Romans 14:19

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“It says: *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.*”

“This is a simple verse to say. But even if it’s easy to remember, it’s not always simple to put into practice. Choosing to care about others is so, so hard when you’re angry or someone is angry at you and being mean to you. Maybe you’re in an argument with somebody and you feel like you’re 100 percent in the right about it. The easiest thing would be to focus on YOUR side of things. It’s so easy to want to lash out at others with your words, put them in their place, and win, right? This happens all the time with our families and even our closest friends. But see, with relationships, you never win by fighting.”

“I want you to remember that we don’t always know why people behave the way they do, maybe someone is mean to them at home? Maybe they are jealous of you? Maybe they’re afraid? We don’t know. What we do know is that Jesus faced a group of angry people and he walked away. He didn’t yell, he didn’t bring lightning down from heaven to fry them, he didn’t give them all a terrible skin disease. He could have. He had the power to. So, He totally could have done all of that but instead.....he walked away from the fight. He put their lives and safety before Himself. He chose to care about others by laying down his “rights” as the Son of God.”

Here’s one thing to remember today: **[Bottom Line] Choose to care about others by walking away from a fight.** Say that with me.”

COMMUNICATOR and KIDS: **[Bottom Line] “Choose to care about others by walking away from a fight.”**

Don’t give into that emotion of anger. Pause, take a breath, ask yourself ‘What DID Jesus do?’ and walk away. You guys will hear more about what that looks like in your small groups. But first, let me pray for us.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30

Ice Cream Wars

What You Need: pieces of construction paper in 3 different colors (*one for each child*)

What You Do:

Give kids each a piece of construction paper (*varying colors*). Ask kids to group up, according to color and to link arms.

What You Say:

“Okay, now that you are grouped up, I want you to think of one another as being different groups of people and you’ve all been arguing about what the best flavor of ice cream is. Each group has its own favorite flavor. (*Assign each group a favorite flavor*) This argument has been going on for days and no one is budging. It has gotten ugly. We’re talking brother against brother and mother against child. Insane. So, you’ve decided that it’s time to make peace.

“I’m going to ask you some questions, you guys discuss it in your groups and then we’re going to discuss together.”

- What could you do to settle the argument about the ice cream? (Vote, try to convince others, could make all the flavors favorite flavors)
- Is it important for everyone to always agree about things such as the best flavor of ice cream? Why or why not? Yes, people need to agree about things; no, sometimes it’s OK to have different ideas.)

“Now, I want you all to link arms as one big group and have a seat without unlinking. Sometimes making peace means agreeing to live with different opinions or even different personalities. Our memory verse talks about peace. “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). ALL we can to live in peace. That means swallowing our pride, walking away, or learning to appreciate opinions and personalities that are different from our own. Consider the alternative.

- What happens when people don’t live in peace?
- What can you do when you don’t agree with people
- How can you be a peacemaker and help others get along with each other?

10:15**Verses to Take with You****[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Divide** your group into three smaller groups and instruct them to move around to make a left side, middle, and right side.
- **Share** today's verse, *Romans 14:19, NIV*: "So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another"
- **Tell** the left side group they are the first third of the verse, "So let us do all we can"
- **Tell** the middle group they are the middle section, "to live in peace. And let us"
- **Tell** the right side group they are the last third, "work hard to build up one another."
- **Let** students practice saying their parts out loud, prompting them as needed, by pointing to whose turn it is.
 - Start on the left and moving across so that they say the verse in order.
 - Run through it a few times, going quicker and quicker.
- **Then ask** them what they think the most important part of this verse is?
- **Encourage** students to share this in one sentence or a phrase (just a few words).
- **Challenge** them to see if they can sum up the most important part in just one word. (If they say, "Peace," ask what that means—what's another way to say that?)

Close by asking them why we should work toward peace (because Christ chose peace as a way to honor other people, to show that he cared more about them than being right). If they seem confused, ask them to help put these ideas into words that younger kids would understand.

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (5 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Papers from opening activity, pens.

What You Do:

- Ask them to silently read through their list.
- Ask them to now write some great things about the same person.
- Discuss together

"When we started this out this morning, I bet you had plenty to say about how this person did you wrong. Did you find it easy or hard to write about that same person's gifts, strengths, or positive attributes? (***Pause in case anyone wants to share. Please be sure that names are not mentioned.***) I just want to remind you that Jesus knew a lot of those very same people that had him at the edge of the cliff. Home towns are different for us than they were then. To be part of home town was to be part of

community that stood up for each other and protected each other against the world. It must have been hard for Jesus, but he walked away. Let me pray for us.”

“Dear God, thank you for Jesus. We ask that you give us the strength to choose to care about others by choosing to walk away; by choosing peace. Lord, when emotions are high, help us to remember the great things about the other person or people. You love them just as much as you love us and that should be enough to remind us to keep the peace and walk away whenever we have to. We love you and in Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”

Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.