

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: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

My Mad Face

- Head cutout on a stick; one for each child
- Crayons

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

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

9:00 & 11:30

Foiled

- Tin foil
- pens

10:15

Peaceful Shouting

- 2 pieces of paper
- Tape

Prayer (9:55, 11:10, 12:25)

- “Mad faces” from Social opening
- Blank head cutout
- Tape
- Crayons

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.

All Service Times

My Mad Face

What You Need: Face cutout on a stick, crayons

What You Do:

- Guide kids to draw what they think they look like when they are mad.
- While kids are working, engage them in conversation. Use the optional questions below to facilitate conversation:
 - What are some of the things that make you angry?
 - Has anyone every been angry with you?
 - Does it ever scare you when other people are angry with you?
 - Have you ever been so angry that you wanted to hurt someone or did hurt someone?

What You Say:

“Wow! Those are some angry faces! I would never want to be around you when you are angry if that's what it looks like. Scary. **Let's head to Large Group to hear a Bible Truth about a time where people were very, very, very angry with Jesus and what He did about it.**”

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:

- Host
- 3 kids selected from audience to be game show contestants
- Host’s “Peaceanator” costume (will be used each week this month):
 - Hairnet
 - Yellow rubber gloves
 - Safety goggles
 - Garbage bag (used as a cape)
 - Carpenters’ tool belt with pockets containing (used each week; contents will vary):
 - 3 small sand shovels
 - Small roll of paper towels
 - Spray bottle of water
 - Scrub brush
 - Sponge
 - Other cleaning materials
- For the “Digging for Peas” game:
 - Long table covered with a plastic tablecloth or tarp
 - 3 small sand buckets
 - Clear, plastic, shoebox-sized bins
 - 3 extra large cans of green peas
 - 3 sets of plastic alphabet letters that spell the word *peace*

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible

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.

CG: Campaign Theme Slide

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

Host enters in his usual clothes.

Opener

HOST: “Hello, everyone! You know, I feel so amazing today, so supercharged and ready to accomplish something dynamic! In fact, I think it’s time to reveal—to all of you—my secret identity. Wait right here!

SFX: “In-Game Music” by Namco Sounds (play as transition music while the Host is changing)

Exit and quickly change into “the Peaceanator,” wearing hairnet, safety goggles, yellow rubber gloves and tool belt of cleaning products. Run back on stage and strike a pose.

“Da, da, da, da! I’m the Peaceanator! The archenemy of fights, arguments, squabbles, spats, and tiffs! Ready to teach you all about the messy, tough, super-heroic job it takes to keep the peace! Do you kids know what peace is? Peace is—

CG: Peace Slide

“Choosing to care more about others than being right! You may think peace is all soft, sweet, butterflies and lollipops, but peace can be a messy business! And speaking of messy, I need three brave kids who are willing to get a little messy to dig for peace—or do I mean peas?

Select three kids to come onstage to play the game.

“Buried in each of these three messy bins of green peas are the letters that spell the word *peace*. You kids will use your shovels to move the peas from the bin to your bucket until you can dig up all five letters of the word. (For older kids you could have them spell the word out in order to win.) Ready, set, go!”

SFX: Game show music

Congratulate the winner(s), wash off peace letters with spray bottle/paper towels from your tool belt. Get kids to help you move the table offstage or to the side of the stage, out of the way. Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Good morning beautiful people! That was such a fun game. You know, choosing peace is something that can get very messy sometimes because our feelings are usually involved. This month, we’re going to let Jesus teach us how to choose peace by looking at what Jesus actually 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, would you:

- A. Enter the town with a big parade, music and people shouting “Jesus is God’s Son!”
- B. Put on your best clothes and strut into town with your nose up in the air (*model this*)
- C. Enter into town like any other day and go to church on Sunday.
- D. Come into town and have parties every night so people could celebrate you

(Take the majority vote and play the slide that corresponds to the class choice.)

CG: Choice Slide (Chosen by class)

Okay, cool. So, now you're in the town and you've *(Fill in class choice)*. 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. If you were there, what would you do? Would you:

- A. Call them liars.
- B. Tell them they are too blind to see the truth
- C. Send ants to bite them really hard at the same time
- D. Make them lose their voices

(Take the majority vote and play the slide that corresponds to the class choice.)

CG: Choice Slide (Chosen by class)

Interesting choice. 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, with more power than any super hero or villain combined, what should you do? Would you:

- A. Send lions to attack them
- B. Make lightning come down from the sky to burn them
- C. Walk away
- D. Call the angels to fight them

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

I am going to be honest with you and say that I'm not sure I would have walked away from that crowd. I would 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 would 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.

Our bottom line today is **Choose to care about others by walking away from a fight**. Let me pray for us and ask God to give us the strength to care enough about others to walk away from a fight.

Dear Father,

Thank you so much for your Son Jesus. He lived a life here on earth, like we are living ours. He had all of the same emotions that we do but He always chose love and peace. Help us to remember that walking away from a fight is better than giving in to our anger and hurting others and even ourselves. Help us to know when to stand up for ourselves and when to calm down and walk away. We love you father and we thank you. Amen.

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

Now, everyone up on your feet and welcome the Power Praise team in.

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

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.

Closer

HOST: “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—I bet you all have it almost memorized! 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. But 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? 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.

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

HOST 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 would Jesus do?' and then walk away. You guys will hear more about what that looks like in your small groups. Have fun, and we'll see you next time!"

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (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

Foiled

What You Need: tin foil, pens

What You Do:

Give kids each a square of tin foil and a pen. Let them draw a picture of someone they love (*family member, friend, teacher...*). There are no right or wrong answers! Do it with them so you can show them the embossed effect by flipping the foil over.

What You Say:

“Your drawings are cool! I am excited that there are so many people that are loved by you. Do you ever get angry with them? (*Personalize the following in an age-appropriate way*) I remember a time where I got angry with my [person in the drawing] and said some really mean things. (*Crumple up the foil as you say the following*) I let my feelings about the toy become more important than the person that I love and care about. It was like I became a big meanie. (*Smooth the foil as you say the following*) I went back and said I was sorry and she forgave me but that mess from our fight can’t be erased. Look at this picture now. It’s just not the same. I don’t want that for you. Look at the drawings of the people you care about. **[Apply] When you want to fight with someone remind yourself what peace looks like. [Impress] Choose to care about others by walking away from a fight.**”

10:15

Peaceful Shouting

What You Need: 2 pieces of paper, tape, marker

What You Do:

Help kids look up the verse and read it together as a group.

Finding verses with 1st and 2nd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Romans in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Romans, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Romans. Help the kids find the page. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 14. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 19 in chapter 14.

After reading the verse as a group, write half of the verse on each page (*Page 1: “So let us do all we can to live in peace. // Page 2: And let us work hard to build each other up.”*) Tape each page up on opposite sides of the room. Divide the group in half and have each half sit on the floor near a half of the verse. Instruct kids to huddle up and practice saying their half of the verse as a group. Then, have each group take turns standing up and shouting out their part to the other side, trying to be louder each time, and then sitting back down when they are done. After both sides have gone, finish with the reference. Repeat by using different voices instead of shouting—e.g., whispering, “bossy” voice, sad voice, happy voice, “teacher” voice, etc. You can also get in on the competition, trying to be louder than both groups. Switch roles so everyone gets a chance to say each part.

What You Say:

“Our memory verse tells us to live in peace and build each other up. What does that mean to build each other up? *(After kids answer)* Building each other up means encouraging each other and making the other person feel good about themselves and the way God made them. **[Apply] This week, let’s build each other up instead of fighting. [Impress] Choose to care about others by walking away from a fight.**”

All Service Times

Pray and Dismiss (5 minutes)

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Mad faces” from opening activity, tape, head cutout, crayons

What You Do:

Have kids hold their mad faces so that they are facing out. Ask kids to think about something in their life that makes them angry or want to fight. (Give them examples like not getting along with a sibling, always arguing with a parent over chores, not usually liking what’s for dinner and arguing with Mom over it, etc.) Now ask them to think about the fun things that they get to do with a sibling, parent or whoever they brought up. Ask them if they would prefer to have peace with them or to have anger between them.

Hand out supplies to make a peaceful face. When they are finished, tape that on the backside of the angry face.

Explain to kids that you will pray a prayer, and you want them to repeat each phrase after you say it.

What You Say:

“Dear God, You are amazing. *(Pause.)* Thank You for showing me how to live. *(Pause.)* I know You want me to be peaceful and in control of my emotions. *(Pause.)* Please help me to walk away from fights. *(Pause.)* In Jesus’ name, amen. *(Pause.)*”

Everyone, put your angry faces out so that we can all see them. Look around, are these faces that you want to be around? I can tell you that I would rather not. Now, everyone turn them around to the peaceful face. This just makes my heart happy. Do you feel better looking at these faces? That’s because God created us to want peace.”

“You know God wants you to **[Impress] Choose to care about others by walking away from a fight. [Apply] If you find it’s hard to do that, pray and ask God to help you.** He wants you to be in control of your emotions, and He’ll help you do it if you ask!

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up. Follow check-out procedures (checking parent badges against kid tags). If the family is a first-time guest, invite them back!