

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)

Walk Away

- No supplies needed

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

Peace and Pepper

- Pepper in a shaker or grinder
- A shallow bowl of water for every two kids
- A bottle of liquid dish soap

10:15

All You Can Do

- Bibles
- 2 different colors of large disposable cups
- Pens

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- Paper
- 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.

All Service Times

Walk Away

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

Pair kids up. Instruct one partner to choose an object in the room but not tell what it is. As the other partner begins to walk around and look for the object, the only direction his partner can give is to say, “Walk away!” when his partner is moving in the wrong direction.

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**

A. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host in “rock star” costume (such as a tie-dye shirt, bandana around head, ripped jeans, leather jacket, long hair wig, etc.)
- 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

B. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible

C. 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

LIGHTS: Down (to get the kids’ attention)

SFX: “Heavy” by Collective Soul (karaoke/instrumental version)

LIGHTS: Up for Host’s entrance (flashing/moving, if possible)

Host enters, dressed as a rock star. He has tons of energy.

Opener

HOST: “What’s up, you guys? How are you feeling today? Are you pumped? Are you stoked? Are you PSYCHED? (*Audience responds.*) Well, I hope so, because this month we’re talking about something that takes some serious GUTS. This month is all about PEEEEEEACE!

Do some head banging or other rock poses. Someone from backstage throws you a towel. Towel off your forehead and throw it back as the riff fades out.

SFX: FADE OUT “Heavy”

“Yes—PEACE! Peace rocks! 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.

Host falls to the floor and lies on his stomach. Worship Leader enters (without shoes) and walks across him. Host jumps back up and resumes his rock star persona.

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!

“Now, since peace is all about relationships, it can definitely get messy. So I need one of you from each grade who’s 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!

Host exits as 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. *(Model this for them)* Put on your best clothes and strut into town with your nose up in the air.
- 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 choosing not to see you for who you really are
- C. Send ants to bite them really hard
- 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 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.

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 Hideout 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. 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 this 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: "You know, I think I'd better clean up this mess. 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."

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 DID Jesus do?' and

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

Peace and Pepper

What You Need: pepper shaker, shallow bowls of water, liquid dish soap

What You Do:

Instruct kids to choose a partner and then sit next to each other in the group's circle. Give partners one bowl of water to share. Pass the peppershaker around the circle, and tell the kids sprinkle pepper into the bowl if they have ever been in an argument or fought with someone over who was right and who was wrong. Let a few kids share their stories (without mentioning any names) and then invite the group to look back on the situation and try to identify the point at which it started to turn into a fight.

Make sure there's a very visible layer of pepper in each bowl. Add more if needed. Ask kids to look at the pepper in their bowls and imagine that it represents a messy situation on the verge of turning into a fight if someone doesn't make a step toward peace. Refer to examples they shared earlier or suggest a scenario in which two people both feel they're 100 percent right or when someone is being bullied and treated unfairly as Isaac was, and so on.

Next, have both partners each place one finger into the center of the bowl and touch the bottom to represent two people in the middle of a disagreement. Ask them to take a look at the mess of pepper around their fingers. What did it do? (*Probably not much of anything.*)

Have one partner put a drop of dish soap on the tip of his finger then poke it back into the center of the bowl. What did the pepper do? (*It should have immediately scattered to the edge of the bowl.*)

Invite the kids to brainstorm some analogies that could come from the "Peace and Pepper" experiment. Ask them what they think the soap represents. How is it an example of peace?

What You Say:

"In that experiment, the pepper particles diffused—or scattered—as soon as the soap touched the water. Caring enough about others to walk away from a fight is the 'soap' that can put an end to an argument and bring peace. When you feel you're headed into a fight, here's how to diffuse the situation—**[Impress] prove you care about others by walking away from a fight.** When you choose not to argue with someone, it makes it really hard for the other person to keep fighting with you. **[Apply] When you feel like fighting, it's time to pray. Involve God in the situation and ask Him to help you bring peace. When God steps in, His Spirit goes to work. He'll help you put you desire to be 'right' aside. He'll help you talk things through. He'll help you show the other person that you really care about them and that they're more important to you than what you're arguing about."**

10:15**All You Can Do****What You Need:** Bibles, cups, pens or markers**What You Do:**

Ask kids to look up Romans 14:19. For those who need help finding the verse, use the following Navigation Tip:

Our verse is from the book of Romans. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*New*) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. It's the first of the four Gospels (*Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*) and Acts. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 14. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 19 in chapter 14.

Ask kids what they think it means to "do all we can to live in peace." What does it look like to "work hard to build each other up"? Let kids share how knowing Romans 14:19 would be helpful when they need to walk away from a fight.

Ask each of the kids to write the words of Romans 14:19 around the outside of a cup. Then help kids form two equal teams. Instruct one team to set their cups right side up around the room. Have the other team turn their cups upside down around the room. Explain that at your signal, teams will try to turn their opponent's cups over while also setting their own back to the original position if overturned. Stop the game every 15 seconds. The team with the most cups in the original position gets a point. Practice the verse by reciting it after each round.

What You Say:

"A game like this could go on forever, but if your team stopped trying, you'd lose. It's like that with peace, too. Living in peace with others is an ongoing thing. It's something you keep working at all the time. If you don't, you'll lose out on some really great relationships. It'll take hard work; Romans 14:19 says so. But it's worth the effort, because it's what God wants you to do. **[Apply] You might have to walk away from an argument, give up your rights, or let go of having your way in order to choose to care about. This week, instead of lashing out at someone or putting them in their place, ask God to help you set your anger aside and do the hard thing; [Impress] choose to care about others by walking away from a fight.**"

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (5 minutes)**

What You Need: paper, pens

What You Do:

Give kids paper and pens. Ask them to write a prayer that asks for God's help to live out today's Bottom Line. Tell them to be sure to include at least one word that begins with each of the letters in the word PEACE. When finished, ask kids to exchange papers. Then they should pray silently using the written prayer as a guide. Help kids as needed to write simple prayers similar to the following:

Dear God, **P**lease help me **E**very day to be **A** peacemaker. Help me chose to **C**are more about others than **E**ven myself by walking away from a fight or an argument. In Jesus name, amen.

What You Say:

“Jesus was willing to walk away from a fight to keep peace for his people. **[Apply] Like Jesus, you can trust God to help you choose peace over anger.** You can do it! Even if it gets messy and uncomfortable. With God on your side, you can do the hard thing. You can **[Impress] choose to care about others by walking away from a fight.**”

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.