



**MARCH THEME**

**JUMP BALL**

Finding PEACE in the Madness

**BIBLE STORY**

Genesis 26:1-6, 12-22, 26-31

Walk On By | Isaac's Wells

**BOTTOM LINE**

Prove you care more 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, NIV

**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

**FOR LEADERS ONLY**

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

**Key Question: How do you walk away from a fight?** If you walk into a fifth-grade classroom, you'll start to discover that even if fists aren't flying, kids fight with each other. Walking away from a fight can be one of the hardest things a kid does because they feel like their entire reputation is at stake. We pray kids leave with a game plan for how they can make the wise choice and walk away from a fight.

Throughout **Genesis 26**, we find Abraham's son, 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.

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

**SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION**

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

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to help kids discern when something is worth fighting over and when it's not. 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.

**•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

**Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding**

**What You Need:** "Moving Van" coloring pages, crayons

**What You Do:**

- Pass out the "Moving Van" coloring pages and crayons. As kids color, ask:
  - Have you or anyone close to you ever moved?
  - Where did they move to or from? Why did they move?
  - What do you remember being fun or hard about it?
- Talk about all the things people need to do when moving, such as the hard work of packing everything up, getting it to the new house, and then unpacking it. They have to make sure things like water, electricity, trash pick-up, mail, and Internet are ready.



●● **HOT LAVA**

*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:**

- Choose a child to be the Guesser.
- Choose an object in the room to be the “Hot Lava,” and let the other children know what it is, but don’t tell the Guesser.
- The object must be something visible such as a light switch, Bible, table, or chair.
- Have the Guesser stand in the middle of the room and begin to walk slowly in any direction.
- Explain that the other children will help him keep away from the “Hot Lava” by giving the following two clues as he moves around the room:
  1. **WALK AWAY:** This means he’s getting close to the “Hot Lava” and needs to move away.
  2. **OKAY:** This means he is safely walking away from the “Hot Lava.”
- After three or four clues, let the Guesser tell where he thinks the “Hot Lava” is located.
- Repeat, letting others take a turn as the Guesser or choosing the “Hot Lava.”

**What You Say:** “You did a great job helping one another walk away from the “Hot Lava!” [Transition] **Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll learn/we learned about something God wants us to walk away from. It’s not Hot Lava, but it’s just as dangerous.**”

*[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]*

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## GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

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

●● **MOVE, DIG, REPEAT** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

*Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** “Move, Dig, Repeat” activity page

**What You Do:**

- Read aloud the paraphrase of the story using the “Move, Dig, Repeat” activity page as you invite kids to do the actions described in the bolded print.
- After the review, talk together about the story using the following questions and answers...
  - Do you know what a famine is? (*Pause for answers*) It’s when there’s no food for people to eat, usually because of no rain for a long time and the crops die. It’s a really hard time!
  - Do you remember what Isaac keep digging to find? (*Water*)
  - Why were the Philistine people jealous of Isaac? (*He was very successful*)
  - What did King Abimelech and the Philistines ask Isaac to do? (*Leave the land*)
  - What did Isaac do when there was an argument over who the well belonged to? (*He moved and had his servants dig another well*)
  - What can we learn from Isaac about the best way to respond when things seem unfair?

**What You Say:** “When Isaac trusted God and chose peace, he did something really hard! And he did it not only one time but over



and over and over again. Choosing peace and walking away from a fight is never easy. Sometimes we think that if we give in, we're the losers. Kids will think we're weak or afraid. But that's just not true. Making peace doesn't make you a loser. It takes a whole lot of strength to be the one who walks away from a fight. When you don't think you've got that kind of strength, ask God to help you **[Bottom Line] prove you care more about others by walking away from a fight.**"

●● **YOU GOTTA MOVE** [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Copy paper (1 for every kid in your group + 5 extras)

**What You Do:**

- Remind your group that the reason Isaac moved the first time was because there was a famine in the land where he was living.
  - Explain that a famine can happen for different reasons, but it's usually caused by long periods of time without rain.
  - Crops stop growing and there's not enough water to drink.
  - There's less and less and less food, until there's nothing at all to eat.
- Place all of the copy paper on the floor around the room.
- Pick one child to be King Abimelech. He should stand tall with his hands on his hips.
- Ask the rest of the group to choose a piece of paper to stand on.
- Explain that King Abimelech will point to one of the papers and say, "You gotta move." The kid on that piece of paper must then pick another piece of paper to stand on.
- Remove the abandoned paper and choose a new King Abimelech. (*The previous king should take the new king's spot.*)
- Tell the children that if King Abimelech yells, "FAMINE!" everyone must move to a new piece of paper.
- Play until there are not enough pieces of paper remaining for all the kids to have one.
- After the game, praise the kids for not getting upset when they had to move or fighting over the papers.
- Then, have everyone sit down around your small group table.
- One at a time, read the following examples of situations kids could find themselves in.
- After each situation, ask kids to jump up if they can think of a way to make peace in that situation.
- Out of the kids who jump up, ask for a volunteer to share their idea.
- If anyone else has a different idea, they can share it, too.
  - A boy pushed in front of you in line.
  - Your sister got two cookies and you only got one.
  - Your brother got to go first in a game.
  - You asked if you could pick a movie to watch but your dad let your sister choose instead.
  - Your cousins made a mess in your room but you have to pick everything up.
  - A kid grabbed a glue stick out of your hand as you were using it during craft time.

**What You Say:** "Moving from one place to another in our game was fun and you did well by not getting upset with other kids when you needed to move. Everyone knew that it wasn't a big deal and certainly not worth fighting over. That's how a lot of situations are. Stuff that happens can feel like a big deal at the time, but when you stop and think about it, the smart thing to do is **[Bottom Line] prove you care more about others by walking away from a fight.** Let God help you do that this week."

●● **BACK AWAY** [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:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**



- Ask everyone to line up shoulder-to-shoulder in front of you.
- Say our version of Romans 14:19 aloud, and encourage kids to repeat it after you...  
“So let us (*So let us*) do all we can (*do all we can*) to live in peace (*to live in peace*). And let us work hard (*And let us work hard*) to build each other up (*to build each other up*)”
- Tell them that every time they say the word “PEACE,” they should take one step backward so they are moving away from you.
- Repeat the verse several times, varying the way kids move backward by asking them to hop, take a baby step, giant step, three shuffles, two spins, etc.
- **[Make It Personal]** (*Tell the kids about a time when you walked away from a fight because you wanted to show someone they were more important to you than what was fair. Explain how that built them up.*)

**What You Say:** “We show we care about others by building them up, not fighting with them. In order to do that, you might have to walk away from an argument this week. You won’t have to walk away backward, but you’ll have to give up what you want or let go of having something your way so that you can show someone they’re more important to you than winning an argument. If you’re getting angry, pray and find an adult who can help you before you say or do something that will make the problem worse. This week, instead of arguing and fighting, ask God to help you do the better thing: **[Bottom Line] prove you care more about others by walking away from a fight.**”

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## PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

**Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask one group member to stand up.
- Pray for the child standing, using the prayer below.
- Then, that child should sit, and the child sitting to his right should stand
- Say the prayer for the child now standing.
- Repeat until each child has had a turn.

**What You Say:** “Dear God, help [kid’s name] to prove they care more about others by walking away from a fight.”

Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday leaders, hand out **Parent Cue** cards as adults arrive to pick up. Encourage kids to tell someone today’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Prove you care more about others by walking away from a fight.**