



**MARCH THEME**

**JUMP BALL**

Finding PEACE in the Madness

**BIBLE STORY**

**Genesis 13:5-18**

Go Your Own Way | Abram Makes Peace

**BOTTOM LINE**

Prove you care more about others by letting go of “what’s fair”

**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, NIRV

**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: Why is it so hard to give up what you think is fair?** Fairness is a big deal to preteens. It’s often their biggest complaint when something doesn’t go their way. As kids start with this question, they’ll discover how God thinks about fairness and how they can be more willing to let go of what they think is fair.

We start the month in **Genesis 13:5-18**, God blessed Abram and his nephew, Lot, with a large amount of flocks and herds, so many that the land they were on couldn’t sustain all of them. The workers on each side were not getting along. Abram and Lot knew it was time to separate. Although God had promised Abram the land of Canaan and he had a right to take whatever he wanted, Abram allowed Lot to choose first. Abram let go of the best land in order to make peace with his family.

**Bottom Line: Prove you care more about others by letting go of “what’s fair.”** Sometimes choosing peace means letting go of what we want or our perception of ourselves. Preserving the relationship is more important than protecting our own sense of fairness.

**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. Pray that they would gain a deeper understanding this month of what it looks like for them to become peacemakers in their worlds—in school, at home, with friends, etc. Pray that they would start this week to catch a vision for how God may want them to pursue peace in their relationships and not always seek out what is “fair.”

**•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

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

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

• Ask:

—Have you ever moved to a new place? What was that like?

—What was the first day of school like for you this year? Were you scared or excited?

Can you remember something that happened on that first day?

—Have you ever been the new kid at school or on a team? What does that feel like?

**•• CANDY!**

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



**What You Need:** Candy! activity cards

**What You Do:**

- Place candy cards in the center of the table.
- Ask:
  - What are some ways we could distribute the candy among the group?
  - Play out each suggestion for distributing the candy.
  - Examples could be:
    - ...Free for all. Grab what you want as quickly as you can.
    - ...Take turns selecting a piece of candy. Discuss ways to determine the order of who gets to choose first, second, etc.
    - ...Pass out the candy randomly and kids can swap if they want to.
  - What way did you think was the fairest way to distribute the candy? Why?
- Collect all the candy and give it to one kid.
- Ask:
  - What if I just gave all the candy to (*pick a kid*) and told him he didn't have to share it and then I gave nothing to anyone else? What would you think of that? Would it be fair?
  - Would you rather be the kid who got all of candy or the kid who didn't get any candy?

**What You Say:** "Often we find ourselves in situations where things just don't seem fair. Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we'll hear/we heard about what we can do when we think things are unfair."

[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.

●● **YOU BUILD THIS CITY** [Talk about God | Application Activity]

**Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing**

**What You Need:** Copy paper, pens, markers

**What You Do:**

- Pass out a piece of copy paper to each child.
- Discuss all the things you might include if you could create your very own city.
- Instruct the kids to use the pens and markers to draw their own cities.
  - Would it have tall buildings?
  - What would the houses look like? Would you include parks, schools, libraries etc.?
  - In your city, would cars fly?
  - Drawings can be zany, crazy, and creative!
- When your group seems about half way done with this activity, STOP!

●● **YOU FINISH THIS CITY** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

**Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing**



**What You Need:** Kids' city drawings from above activity, pens, markers

**What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to hand their drawings to the person on their right.
- Once the kids have a new drawing, explain that you want them to finish another person's city.
- Kids can add anything they want to the other person's drawing as you retell the story using the discussion questions below.

**Discussion Questions:**

- Today's story was about Abram and Lot. Does anyone remember how they're related? (*Lot was Abram's nephew*)
- Abram and Lot both had plenty of flocks and herds and tents. Why did this cause a problem? (*Because there were too many people and too many animals for them to stay together*)
- What happened between Abram's and Lot's men because of this overcrowding? (*They started fighting*)
- So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any fighting. Isn't there a whole land before us?" Who did Abram say could choose his land first? (*Lot*)
- Yes! Abram told Lot to choose the land he wanted to settle on and he would go the other direction. Why do you think Abram let Lot take the first choice? (*To keep the peace*)
- Lot looked over the land and noticed that the area to the east near the Jordan River had good water and looked like a good place to live. So Lot went east. Which way did Abram go? (*He went west to Canaan*)
  
- When you've finished the discussion questions, allow the kids to share their drawings with each other and return them to their original creator. Ask:
  - How did it feel to have someone else finish the drawing you started?
  - Does it look like what you intended it to look like?
  - Did it seem fair to have someone else finish your work?

**What You Say:** "Maybe you're a little frustrated that I allowed someone else to add to your drawing. You're right; it really wasn't fair of me. I would want to finish the drawing myself too. But in the long run, what's more important: a drawing on a piece of paper or your relationship with a friend? Yes, the friendship! Abram understood this and that's why he allowed Lot to choose where he would live first. This might not seem fair to us but Abram wanted to stop the fighting and bring peace to the situation, especially since Lot was family! You can do what Abram did and **[Bottom Line] prove you care more about others by letting go of 'what's fair.'** Besides, maybe your friend added something cool to your city that you hadn't even thought about!"

**[Make It Personal]** *(Tell your group about a time when you chose to put someone and your relationship with them first and [Bottom Line] prove you care more about others by letting go of "what's fair." How did the person respond? Did the decision you made protect your relationship?)*

**•• PEACE/NO PEACE** [Live for God | Application Activity | 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:** Masking tape

**What You Do:**

- Read this month's memory verse, found on the left column of the first page of this study.
- Create a tape line on the floor to separate your small group area into two sections.
- Explain that you will read a scenario (*from the list below*) and the kids will jump to one side if the scenario is an example of "peace" or to the other if it's an example of "no peace."
- Designate one side as the "peace" side and one as the "no peace" side and review these sides with the kids.
- Make sure that all kids stand on the centerline as you read each scenario so they can jump to one side or the other.



### Scenarios

1. Your big brother gets invited to a birthday party at the new trampoline park—a place you’ve never been to. You get SUPER mad and tell him you hope he doesn’t have any fun.
2. A friend brings in stickers to share but doesn’t give you one. You decide it’s not a big deal and continue to be kind to her anyway.
3. The teacher thinks you were talking at your table during quiet reading time when it was really the kid sitting next to you. You argue with her and get in more trouble.
4. You clean up most of the toys outside and your sister only picks up one thing. But when she comes inside, your sister takes all the credit. You decide to just let it go.
5. Your brother gets the last sour cherry sucker and you’re stuck with watermelon. You hate watermelon. But you say thank you anyway.
6. When you split a cookie with your brother, he gets the bigger half. What do you do?
7. Your sister gets to pick the movie to watch on your long car trip, but she got to pick it the last time too. What do you do?

**What You Say:** “All of these scenarios were examples of unfair situations. We all face the ‘that’s not fair’ stuff at home, at school, everywhere. Why? Because it’s impossible for everything to be fair all the time in every situation. And if you’re holding on to making sure everything is fair, you’ll probably be disappointed! Instead, we need to seek peace. Remember, peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument. Your brother is more important than a cookie. Your relationship with a friend is WAY more important than a sticker. In the moment, it might seem like making things fair is the best solution. But to keep the peace, we have to let go of what’s fair. So this week, let’s **[Bottom Line] prove you care more about others by letting go of what’s fair.**”

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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:

- Gather the kids in a tight circle.
- Remind them about their earlier “city” drawings and how unfair it felt to have someone else finish their drawings.
- Challenge them to show peace this week and to choose to care more about others than making things fair.
- Close in prayer...

**What You Say:** “Dear God, thank you for reminding us through the story of Abram and Lot that our relationships with others are WAY more important than making everything fair. Help us not to care about what’s fair and instead to care about the people who are right in front of us. We want to be peacemakers and **[Bottom Line] prove we care more about others by letting go of what’s fair.** In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

Give each child a **GodTime** card. As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show their “city” drawings to their parents and to tell them about the “unfair” assignment.