



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 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 the kids to pretend they are basketball players jumping up high to make a basket.
- Let them practice their “jump shots” by shooting an imaginary ball into an invisible hoop. (*Demonstrate for younger kids who may not know what that looks like.*)
- Tell them you want to see how high they can jump.
- Ask the following questions and encourage each child to share:
 - Have you ever been to a basketball game?
 - What did you like about it? What did you not like?
 - What are some of the things you saw and heard?



●● **STAY IN THE PASTURE**

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:

- Invite all the kids to pretend they're sheep and the small group table is the pasture.
- Have them move around the room on their hands and knees, making sheep sounds.
- Tell them when they hear you clap your hands three times they must hurry to the pasture.
- After everyone has returned to their chair, ask them to once again move around the room, pretending to be sheep and listening for your clap (*which is their signal to hurry back to the pasture*).
- After a couple of rounds, remove some chairs away from the table, so there is not enough room for all the sheep to fit in the pasture (*not enough chairs for all of the kids in the group*).

What You Say: "Poor little sheep. Your pasture is way too small. That's too baaaaad. But what good sheep you were. You worked together to try and fit everyone in the pasture without arguing or complaining. (*Pat kids on the head.*) Good sheep. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we'll hear/we heard about a time when some men were arguing and complaining about where their sheep would graze. They needed to find a peaceful solution.**

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

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.

●● **SHOE SHOOTS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Two Hula-hoops, "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down" activity pages (*NOTE: This activity will be set up as a station for your group to rotate through*)

What You Do:

- Ask kids to sit down together, remove one of their shoes, and place it in front of them.
- Place the hula-hoops on the floor about eight feet away from where everyone is sitting.
- Place the "Thumbs Up" sign near the right hoop and the "Thumbs Down" sign near the left hoop.
- Explain that you will make a statement about today's Bible story and they must decide if it's true or false. (*Make sure they understand the difference between true and false. Point out the thumbs signs and tell kids that "false" simply means that something is wrong and it didn't actually happen.*)
- Tell them to indicate their answer by tossing their shoe into the hoop on the right ("*thumbs up*") if they think the statement is true or to the left ("*thumbs down*") if false.
- Below are suggested review questions. Add others as needed.
 1. Today's Bible story is found in the book of Genesis. (*true*)
 2. Abram and Lot and their households moved often in search of grass and water for their animals. (*true*)
 3. The herdsman of Lot and Abram always got along. (*false*)
 4. Lot was Abram's nephew. (*true*)
 5. In one direction, the land was green and grassy, with lots of towns and cities. (*true*)
 6. In the other direction the land was dusty, dry, and empty. (*true*)
 7. Lot let Abram be the first to choose the direction he wanted to take his flocks. (*false*)



8. Abram was mad at Lot for choosing the best land. (*false*)
9. God promised to one day give Abram all the land around him. (*true*)

• Discuss how Abram kept peace.

—Let the kids tell you what they think was unfair in the story.

—Ask them what Abram did that proved he cared more about others than about having things “fair” or getting his way.

—**[Make it Personal]** (*What unfair situation have you faced? Without mentioning names, tell the kids about a time you were treated unfairly. Talk about how God showed up to help you deal with the unfairness.*)

What You Say: “God wants us to do as much as we can do to live in peace. Sometimes that means we have to let go of ‘what’s fair.’ That’s what Abram did; he let Lot choose first, knowing that Lot might choose the best land for himself, which is exactly what happened. When you let go of what’s fair, you show others that you care more about them than you care about getting your own way. When you **[Bottom Line] prove you care more about others by letting go of ‘what’s fair,’** you’re helping them see God’s love in you. And that’s much more important than getting our way.”

•• **UNFAIR TIMING** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Time Cards”

What You Do:

- Form two teams.
- Explain that you will assign a task to both teams.
 - They will have to complete the task in a specific amount of time.
 - If they do, their team earns a point.
 - If they don’t, the other team earns a point.
- Choose one team to go first.
- Before you describe the task for them to perform, let someone from their team draw a “Time Card.” Whatever amount of time is written on the card is how long they have to finish the task.
- Repeat the same task with the other team, letting them draw a “Time Card” before they begin.
- Note: Observe the way your kids respond to the “unfair” amounts of time they are given, such as: no big deal, that was fun, or NOT FAIR! See if they take the “1 hour” or “100 years” cards seriously!
- Below is a list of actions to use. Add others as needed.
 - Remove your shoes and then put them back on.
 - Do 10 jumping jacks.
 - Sing “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”
 - One at a time, let each person on your team say his or her first, middle, and last name.
 - Line up from tallest to shortest.
 - Find out who has a birthday closest to today.
 - One at a time, let each person on your team name their favorite sport.
- After the game, let kids discuss whether they thought the game was fair or unfair and why.
- Praise them for behavior that reflected the point of today’s story: **[Bottom Line] Prove you care more about others by letting go of “what’s fair.”**

What You Say: “If your team drew a five-second time card and the other team drew one for five minutes, it felt a little unfair, didn’t it? When unfair things happen, it’s easy to get frustrated. We like things to be fair, and there’s nothing wrong with that. However, there will be times when what’s fair isn’t what’s happening. You might get really upset at that, but God doesn’t want you to stay that way. Instead, **[Bottom Line] prove you care about others by letting go of ‘what’s fair.’** Unfairness is never right, but in order to have peace you may have to let go of what you feel is fair. This week, if you hear the words, ‘That’s not fair,’ coming out of your mouth, stop and think. Is this going to start an argument about something really important, or is it something that won’t matter in a day or two? You

might be able to keep an argument from ever starting if you decide to let go of what you think is fair.”

•• **BUILD EACH OTHER UP** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bibles, ball pit ball

What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up Romans 14:19 using the navigation tips below...
Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. Then, lead them to find Romans in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Romans starts with the letter R. 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.
- Read the verse together several times and ask the group what they think it means to “build each other up”
—Help them understand that it means to say nice or encouraging things to someone.
—When we help others—showing kindness, respect, and making them feel special—we’re also building them up.
- Let kids practice saying the verse by passing the ball to the person next to them while saying the verse as follows.
—First child says, “So let us do all we can do to live in peace,” and hands the ball to the person next to him.
—Second child receives the ball and finishes the verse by standing up and saying, “And let us work hard to build each other up.” He then sits down and passes the ball to the next person at the table.
—Child three receives the ball and begins the verse (*while remaining sitting*) again.
—Child four stands as he says the second part of the verse.
—Continue until all the kids have had a chance to say part of the verse and hand off the ball to someone.
—Pass the ball around the circle one more time, with each kid saying something encouraging to the person on his left.

What You Say: “Knowing when to sit or stand wasn’t easy, was it? Letting go of ‘what’s fair’ and building others up isn’t always easy either. But even when it’s hard, it’s the right thing to do. We know that God will help us. We’re not on our own. We can ask God for help. Making peace and building others up often means putting someone else’s needs before your own. That’s not always going to seem fair, but we know that it’s the best thing to do. So **[Bottom Line] prove you care about others by letting go of ‘what’s fair.’**”

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 half of the group to pose as statues that show how someone looks and feels when something seems fair.
- Ask the other half to pose as statues showing how someone looks and feels when something seems unfair.
- As they hold their poses, lead them in saying today’s Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line] Prove you care about others by letting go of “what’s fair.”**
- Ask everyone to form a “prayer posture pose” such as kneeling, hands folded, or head bowed, and lead them in the following prayer...

What You Say: “Dear God, thank you for the example of Abram. He helps us better understand what it looks like to keep peace and let go of ‘what’s fair.’ When things aren’t fair, it can really hurt our feelings and make us feel sad or angry. Thank you, Lord, that we can pray to you no matter how we feel. Please help us be peacemakers this week. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Give each child a **GodTime** card. As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show parents their fair and unfair statue poses.