

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 groups 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 retell today's Bible story, but together you'll have to figure out if what you say is part of the story or not.
- Tell them they should toss their shoe to the hula-hoop on the right (*"thumbs up"*) if your group decides the statement is part of the story or to the left (*"thumbs down"*) if it's not part of today's story.
- Today's story...
 1. Was found in the book of Genesis -- the first book of the Bible? (*yes*)
 2. Did the two people in the story, Abram and Lot, move often in search of grass and water for their animals. (*yes*)

3. Did the people who worked with Lot and Abram always get along? (*no*)
 4. Was Lot Abram's nephew? (*yes*)
 5. In one direction, was the land green and grassy, with lots of towns and cities? (*yes*)
 6. In the other direction was the land dusty, dry, and empty? (*yes*)
 7. Did Lot let Abram be the first to choose the direction he wanted to take his flocks? (*no*)
 8. Was Abram mad at Lot for choosing the best land? (*no*)
 9. Did God promise to one day give Abram all the land around him? (*yes*)
- Talk about how Abram kept peace...

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."

—[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; or help them identify a time when they thought something wasn't fair...maybe mom made them go to bed before their big brother when they wanted to stay up; or maybe grandma didn't let them do something they wanted to do.*)

•• **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: Ball pit ball

What You Do:

- Say this month's memory verse for the kids..

"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

- Then, have them repeat after you as follows...

"So let us do all we can (*So let us 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*).

Repeat the verse together several times until they've got it.

—Help them understand that "build each other up" means to say nice or encouraging things to someone and/or about 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" and hands the ball to the person next to him.

—Second child receives the ball and finishes the verse by saying, "to live in peace." He then passes the ball to the next person at the table.

—Child three receives the ball and continues the verse by saying, "And let us work hard" and passes the ball to the next person.

—Child four continues as he says "to build each other up."

—Continue until all the kids have had a chance to say part of the verse and hand off the ball to someone.

—Next, help the kids live out the verse by passing the ball around the circle one more time, with each kid saying something encouraging to the person on his left. You may need to give them some hints, i.e. "Your drawings are nice!" "You are a good friend!"

What You Say: "Remembering the verse when it was your turn 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



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

MARCH

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GRADE PRE

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

going to seem fair, but we know 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.
- Lead your group 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.