

Alley SG - March 10-11, 2018

Bible Truth: Walk on By (Isaac's Wells) • *Genesis 26:1-6, 12-22, 26-31*

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

Key Question: How do you walk 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*

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Sticky notes; 5-10 for each kid, pens

What You Do:

- **Give** each kid several sticky notes and a pen.
- **Ask** kids to write on each sticky note one thing people fight about.
- **Encourage** kids to fill out more than one sticky note. Can they think of an example from their own life? Maybe an argument with a brother, sister, or parent or a disagreement with friends; or maybe they witnessed kids arguing at school or on the bus.
- When time is up, **instruct** kids to post their sticky note in one place (wall, door, table). Working as a team, **let** kids group together similar examples.
- **Discuss** the examples.
 - What were the common things that cause fights?
 - What examples did you think, "Yea, I could see why people fight about that"?
 - What examples surprised you?
 - When you look at the examples, is there a common motivator? A common cause for the fight? (*Potential discussion: So let's say you and your sister fight over who gets the bowl with the most ice cream in it. Why is it important enough to each of you to cause a fight? You wouldn't you fight over who got the bowl with the most broccoli in it? What's the difference? Often we get in fights because we don't get our way or because we don't think a situation is fair.*)

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, sticky notes from 'Take a Snapshot' Activity

What You Do:

- **Review** a part of the Bible story by reading Genesis 26:12-22.
- **Ask:**
 - Who wanted to fight with Isaac? (*Philistines*)
 - How did they try to pick a fight with Isaac? (*filled up his wells with dirt*) What did that mean for Isaac and his servants? (*no water, more work to dig more wells*)
 - Why did they pick a fight with Isaac? (*they were jealous, they didn't want to share*)
 - Was Isaac treated fairly? Why or why not?
 - What was Isaac's response to the Philistines' attempt to fight with him? How did Isaac walk away from a fight? (*he built another well*)
 - Now, we didn't read this just now, but does anyone remember what was the result of Isaac's response to the Philistines? (*verses 28-31—a peaceful relationship with the Philistines; God was honored*)

- Imagine a modern-day version of this story and, instead of having to dig wells, your parents ask you to help with the dinner dishes and not your brother and sister. And they ask you every night for a week and never once ask your brother and sister to help. Do you think that would be fair? Why or why not? So how could you be like Isaac and live peacefully? What are things you could do or think about to help you have a good attitude as you walk away from a fight?
- **Group** students into pairs.
- **Ask** each pair to select an example of something people fight about listed on the sticky notes in the 'Take a Snapshot' activity and **brainstorm** a way they could be like Isaac and walk away from a fight.
- Encourage students to share their ideas by **acting** out their solutions to avoid a fight.

3. Discussion Questions

- What are ways people pick fights?
- What are ways people fight? (*This could be an opportunity to talk about social media. Encourage kids to give examples of how social media can be used for peace and not for fighting.*)
- Do you always walk away from a fight? Why or why not?
- Give an example of a "fight" you might not walk away from.
- How do you decide what fights are ones you should walk away from?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, Jenga Tower (1 per group)

What You Do:

- **Read** Proverbs 17:14.
- **Ask:**
 - What is a dam? What is the purpose of a dam? What happens when there is a crack in a dam?
- **Let** kids play a game of Jenga.
- If needed, instructions for Jenga are below:
 - Construct a tower of blocks. Place three blocks down on a hard surface. Add a layer by rotating the direction of the blocks by 90 degrees.
 - After the tower is built, kids take turns removing a block and placing it on top of the tower; they must place the block 90 degrees from the direction of the previous layer of blocks.
 - Kids can only touch the blocks with one hand.
 - The winner is the last kid to successfully remove and place a block on the top of the tower without the tower falling.
- **Ask:**
 - What happened as we started removing blocks from our tower? (*It got wobbly, it fell, it was unstable*)
 - Just like our tower came crashing down when we removed blocks, what happens with a crack in the dam? (*It's no longer stable, water comes crashing through, it no longer serves its purpose*)
 - How is arguing and picking a fight like making a crack in a dam or like removing blocks from our tower?

- What does Proverbs 17:14 say we should do to prevent a fight? Can you think of an example when you walked away from an argument to avoid a fight?
- **[Make it Personal] (Give an age-appropriate personal example of a situation in which you walked away from a fight or when you saw someone else do this successfully.)**

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Sticky notes from the 'Take a Snapshot' Activity

What You Do:

- **Review** the list of things that cause fights from the 'Take a Snapshot' activity.
- **Ask:**
 - Is there one that stands out to you?
 - Do you sometimes struggle with needing things to always be fair?
 - Or maybe being right all the time is important to you. So important you sometimes can't let it go.
 - Is there someone you tend to pick on or is there someone who picks on you and you want to just walk away?
- **Encourage** kids to pick one of the sticky notes and take it home to remind them to ask God to show them ways to walk away from a fight.
- **Pray** with the kids.

What You Say:

Dear God, it is hard to walk away from a fight, especially when we think we are right or when a situation doesn't seem fair. But we want to live in peace with each other, and we need Your help. I lift up these kids to You. Give them the strength and the courage to walk away from a fight, to drop something and let it go before a fight breaks out. Show them how to care more about You and more about others than they do about winning a fight. We love You, and we are confident You will guide us through Your Word and the stories You give us. In Jesus' name, amen.