

City SG - March 3-4, 2018

Bible Story: Go Your Own Way (Abram Makes Peace) • *Genesis 13:5-18*

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 up one another.” *Romans 14:19 (NirV)*

1. True or False?

What You Need: “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Ask kids to sit down together.
- Place the “Thumbs Up” sign near the right of the kids and the “Thumbs Down” sign near the left of the kids.
- Explain that you will make a statement about today’s Bible story and they must decide if it’s true or false. (Make sure everyone understands 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 standing on the right (the “thumbs up” sign) if they think the statement is true or to the left (near the “thumbs down” sign) 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 herdsmen 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.”

2. Peace / No Peace

What You Need: White Floor Tape

What You Do:

- 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.
- You’ll notice that the last three scenarios are open-ended. Call on different kids to complete each example with a “peace” or “no peace” solution.

Scenarios

1. Your little 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 for all her friends but doesn’t give you one. You decide it’s not a big deal and continue to be kind to her anyway.
3. It’s Walk to School Day for your sister so your mom walks with her. But when you had Walk to School Day last year, your mom was sick and you didn’t get to go. You realize your mom couldn’t help being sick and tell them to have a great time walking to school together!
4. The ref makes a call in your basketball game that you think is totally wrong. You get so mad you chuck the ball off the court.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Your brother gets the last sour cherry ring pop and you’re stuck with watermelon. You hate watermelon. But you say thank you anyway.
8. The kid next to you got an A on his test after bragging to you that he didn’t even study. You missed two of the words. What do you do?
9. When you split a cookie with your brother, he gets the bigger half. What do you do?
10. 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.**”

3. Memory Verse Tap Out

What You Need: Bibles, four sets of “Memory Verse Cards” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Find Romans 14:19 together using the Bible navigation tips below and read it as a group.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Romans in the list under “New Testament.” 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.

- Divide the group into four teams and give each team a set of memory verse cards and a Bible open to Romans 14:19.
- Instruct the groups to shuffle their cards and place them in a stack face down.
- Teams must work (one person at a time) to put the memory verse cards in order.
- While one person is working, the rest of the team cannot help. They may only say encouraging words or phrases (like “You’re doing great” or “Keep going!”) but they cannot give clues or help in any way.
- The kid who is working may refer to the open Bible for help.
- Every 10-15 seconds, say, “SWITCH!” The kid in the middle must switch with a fellow teammate by tapping someone new to keep working.
- Same rules apply. Only the kid who was tagged may work on putting the verse in order while the teammates watch and encourage.
- Continue switching teammates every 10-15 seconds until one team finishes putting the verse in order.
- When one team finishes, have someone from that team read the verse aloud from the cards to check their work.

What You Say:

“Great job everyone! Was it hard to have to switch players so fast? Would it have been easier just to work on your own? Maybe it didn’t seem fair to have to switch so often, especially if you felt like the person in the middle was on a roll! But this verse tells us to do ALL we can to live in peace. Even when things seem unfair, or we think we can do something better or faster. We need to work hard to build each other up and keep the peace. And one BIG way we can live in peace is to **[Bottom Line] prove we care more about others by letting go of what’s fair.**”

4. Unfair Timing

What You Need: “Time Cards” Activity Page, smartphone timer

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 pick 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.”

5. Pray and Dismiss

“Dear Jesus, thank You so much for today’s lesson. Help us all to remember that what’s most important is the people in our lives that you want us to show Your love to. We know that sometimes things don’t always go our way, and a lot of things seem unfair, but remind us to love people the way you do. Even when it is hard. We love you so much. In Your Name Jesus we pray, Amen.”