

PEACE

PROVING YOU CARE MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER THAN WINNING AN ARGUMENT

WEEK
ONE

READ: ROMANS 5:6-9

DAY 1



This month is all about **peace, PROVING YOU CARE MORE ABOUT OTHERS THAN WINNING AN ARGUMENT**. But peace is only possible because of God. Instead of making us pay for all the wrongs things we've done, God sent His only son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sins. Sin covers everything from disobeying your parents, to telling a lie, to thinking mean thoughts about someone that hurts you. And the REALLY bad thing about sin is that it makes us an enemy of God.

But God doesn't expect us to clean ourselves up or to stop sinning before we can have a relationship with Him. He knew that even if we tried really hard, we could never be perfect and fix that relationship ourselves. While we were still enemies of God, He made a way for peace.

Pull out a piece of paper. Think through your day yesterday and write down every wrong thing you did, even times when you thought something unkind or disrespectful. Now take a moment and read through it. Doesn't make you feel good about yourself does it? Probably not, but it does help you understand why you need Jesus. What's awesome is that when we believe in Jesus, God wipes all of that away and forgives us. Jesus died for all those things you listed to make peace with God.

THANK God for sending Jesus to prove he cares for us.

READ: COLOSSIANS 1:20-21

DAY 2

God loves us so much that He wants a relationship with us. But because God is perfect, only perfect people can be with Him. Our sin—remember all of those things we listed yesterday?—separates us from Him. In order to fix this big problem, God sent Jesus—who is perfect—to pay the price for our sin. When God sent us Jesus, He proved He cared for us.

Let's do a little science experiment. Gather the following: a small soft drink bottle, water, food coloring, and vegetable oil. Add a few drops of food coloring to the water. Pour about 2 tablespoons of the colored water and 2 tablespoons of the oil in the soft drink bottle. Screw the lid on tight and shake the bottle as hard as you can. Put the bottle on the table and wait five minutes. Now, take a look. The oil and water should be separated from one another. This is a picture of our relationship with God because of our sin. Thankfully, this experiment isn't over yet, but you're gonna have to wait. Keep the bottle on your kitchen counter. You'll finish this experiment tomorrow!

ASK God to help you understand just how important God's gift of Jesus is for you.

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READ: ISAIAH 53:4-5

DAY 3

If you're not already, head back to where you did your science experiment yesterday. Let's do a quick recap: the water represents God and the oil represents us. Take a look at your bottle. Are the two liquids still separated?

What do we need to do to fix that?

Grab some dish-washing liquid and pour a couple of drops into the bottle. (*You might want to ask an adult to help you.*) Now shake the bottle again. What happened to the two liquids? Are they mixed together?

Pretty amazing, huh? This is a picture of what God has done for us. When we were still separated from God, He sent Jesus to take the punishment on the cross for our sin. He died, was buried, and then rose again on the third day to forever fix the broken relationship between God and people. God's love for us made a way for our sin problem was taken care of once and for all. God proved just how much he loved us by sending Jesus to make a way for peace.

LOOK for ways to thank God for sending Jesus to prove He cared for you.

READ: JOHN 16:33

DAY 4

Take a moment and think of some things that happen in the world that make you sad. Maybe someone you know is sick. Or maybe a friend at school is angry with you. Or maybe you saw something on TV or the Internet that was scary. When those bad things happen, it's easy to say, "God, where are you? Can't you fix this?"

The truth is He already has. Like we've learned this week, Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God. But the world is still broken. People still make unwise choices. And unfortunately bad things will happen. But that doesn't mean God isn't there. God is still in control. Jesus has won the battle over sin. And the Bible tells us that God has promised to make everything right. Someday He will, but until then we can rest in the peace that only He can give.

Grab some construction paper in two different colors to create a medal. Cut a circle out of one color and streamers out of the other. Inside the circle write the words, "GOD WINS!" Glue the streamers to the back of the circle to create your medal. Place this somewhere in your room where you can see it this month.

KNOW that even when bad things happen, God wins in the end.

WHEN GOD SENT US JESUS,
HE PROVED HE CARED FOR US.