

# PEACE

PROVING YOU CARE MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER THAN WINNING AN ARGUMENT

WEEK  
**TWO**



**READ: 1 PETER 3:9**

**DAY 1**

Have you ever borrowed money from someone? Let's say you borrow a dollar from your buddy for ice cream. What do you owe him? You guess it. One dollar. And once you pay it back, you'd be even. Easy, right?

In relationships though, it's not that easy. When someone hurts you, paying them back by hurting them doesn't make it even. In fact, it usually just makes the problem worse.

But, what if, instead of "paying someone back" you offered something even better? What if you simply chose to walk away? What if, instead of getting even, you chose to bring peace?

Pull out a quarter from your piggy bank. Carry the quarter in your pocket this week as a reminder to payback others in kindness and to be a peacemaker this week.

**THANK** God for reminding you payback others with peace this week.

**READ: LEVITICUS 19:18**

**DAY 2**

Circle the right answer: Who is your neighbor?

- a. the kid next door
- b. the kid sitting next to you in math class
- c. the one sitting beside you at lunch
- d. the kid behind you in line
- e. all of the above

Yeah. It was sort of a trick question. If you answered, "e. all of the above" you'd be correct! Everyone is your neighbor, even the people who aren't at peace with you. And we're supposed to love our neighbors as what? Ourselves. So, as much as you care about yourself, well, that's supposed to be equal to how much you care about and think about OTHERS.

Read the scenarios below. See if you can think of some ways to love your neighbor as yourself in these situations.

- The kid next door borrows your favorite football and returns it flat.
- One of the players on your team steals the ball and scores a basket.
- The kid sitting next to you starts goofing off during journal time and the teacher calls you out even though you were quietly working.
- Your neighbor at the lunch table only has a sandwich in his lunch bag. He looks like he's still hungry when he finishes it.

**ASK** God to help you treat everyone as you would want to be treated this week.

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**READ: MATTHEW 5:9**

**DAY 3**

Have you ever seen a picture of a family member and thought you looked a little like them? Maybe you've got your mom's blue eyes or maybe you have a deep cleft in your chin like your dad. Because you are their son or daughter, it would make sense that you look or act like they do.

You are also made in the image of God. Sure, you can't do everything He does, like make a mountain appear out of nowhere or create the world in six days. But you can love and forgive and feel and think all because God made you to be like Him. You have His fingerprints all over you. And when you choose to bring peace to a situation, you look exactly like God's son or daughter! You show others you belong to Him by the way you treat them. We look most like God when we choose peace.

Think back over the last few weeks. When were times that the image of God shined through you? Maybe you forgave someone who hurt you, or showed kindness to a kid who was being picked on. Write a Thank You note to God for creating you in His image.

**LOOK** for ways to show peace this week so you can be called sons and daughters of God.

**READ: ROMANS 12:19-21**

**DAY 4**

Enemy is a strong word. In fact, if someone asked you who your enemies are, it would probably be hard to come up with an answer. And don't worry, that's definitely not a bad thing. Choosing peace and friendship is always the wise choice. But what about when someone hurts you? Wouldn't it make sense to pay back wrong for wrong?

Take a minute to read those verses again. God says, "I am the one who judges people." That means that paybacks fall into God's lap, not ours. When someone hurts you, here's something important to remember: you will never be able to control what someone else does, but you always have the choice to respond with kindness and bring peace.

In the box below, write down some specific ways you can "love your enemy."

**KNOW** that God loves it when we leave the judging to Him and choose to love others instead.

**PROVE YOU CARE ABOUT OTHERS  
BY WALKING AWAY FROM A FIGHT.**