

PEACE

PROVING YOU CARE MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER THAN WINNING AN ARGUMENT

WEEK
THREE

READ: GENESIS 33:3-4

DAY 1

Do you have brothers or sisters? What about a cousin you see a lot or a friend in your neighborhood? Has that sister or brother or cousin or friend ever done something that you thought was unfair or did something that made you mad?

We always want things to be fair when we're hurt. At times we think if someone takes something of ours, it's only fair that we should take something of theirs. If someone is mean, fair says we should be mean right back. But none of those "fair" solutions lead to peace. Instead, we should prove we care about others by letting go of what's fair.

Esau had every right to be mad and hold a grudge after what his brother Jacob had done. But instead, he chose peace. Esau forgave Jacob, knowing that their relationship was way more important than making sure things were "fair".

Is there a friend or sibling you need to make peace with? How can you start to forgive them today?

THANK God for the relationships you have and commit to letting go of what's fair.

READ: ROMANS 12:18

DAY 2

Did you read that verse? Take a moment and read it again. It says, "live in peace with *everyone*." Really? Everyone? But what about all those kids you know who seem like they're never kind to anyone?

This verse says, "*if possible*, live in peace with everyone." That means that we should do everything we can to live in peace with others.

You might not be able to control what someone else does, but you can always choose to respond in a way that brings peace.

In most cases, it might mean letting go of what's fair. If someone hurts you, the fair thing would be to hurt them back. The fair thing would be to make them pay. But letting go of what's "fair" might mean that you walk away instead or choose to forgive. As much as you can, you should seek peace.

Ask a grown up to tell you about a time when they let go of what was fair in order to find peace. What happened? What did they learn about peace?

ASK God to help you pursue peace with everyone.

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READ: ROMANS 14:19

DAY 3

One way to live in peace is to encourage the people around you and build them up. You have opportunities to do that everyday. You could build someone up by choosing to be kind or by listening or by letting someone else go first or putting their needs above your own. Maybe building someone up means telling them how important they are to you or how thankful you are for them. The truth is, it's easy to tear someone down with our words or actions. But if we want to be peacemakers, we need to be more focused on building others up.

Find a set of blocks or plastic cups. Use them to practice building a tower. Then knock the tower down. Which was easier: building the tower up or knocking it down? Think about three people that you see almost everyday (they could be family or friends). Make a plan to use your words to build them up this week.

LOOK for ways to build others up this week.

READ: PSALM 34:14

DAY 4

Think about a time when you lost something really important to you. What did you do? Do you say, "oh well, I guess there's no point in looking. It's probably gone forever." NO way!

You probably tore your house apart trying to find it! You dug through drawers, you crawled under beds, you retraced your steps to check every place you had been.

It comes down to this: in order to find something, you have to look for it.

The same is true for finding peace in our relationships. We have to look for ways to bring peace. In other words, we have to be intentional about seeking peace. It doesn't just happen on it's own.

Grab a couple of pipe cleaners to create some crazy glasses. With one pipe cleaner, form the right eye and earpiece. With the other pipe cleaner, form the left eye and earpiece and twist the two pieces together. Wear them to a family meal this week and if your mom or dad asks what they are for, tell them you're on a mission in search of peace this week.

KNOW that God loves it when we search for peace in our relationships.

**PROVE YOU CARE ABOUT OTHERS
BY LETTING GO OF "WHAT'S FAIR."**