

Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.

DAY 1

Read Isaiah 26:3

This month, we're talking about peace, which is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument. When you're in an argument, do you care more about. . .

Winning/ getting your way? Or making sure the other person is okay?

When we're arguing, most of the time we just want the other person to do things our way. Today's verse reminds us that when we trust God, we will receive help to live in peace with others.

The next time you're in a disagreement, here are a few things you can try:

You can stop.

You can ask God to help you.

You can walk away.

You can talk to an adult.

You can choose kind instead of unkind words.

This week, when you find yourself getting really mad about something, instead of focusing on what's been DONE to you, try to focus on what YOU can do. Ask God to give you peace—a deep-down knowing that God is in control and ready to help.

DAY 2

Read Psalm 4:8

Before He faced the cross and His glorious resurrection, Jesus stopped to give His friends a new command: to love each other, just as He had loved them. By choosing kindness and love, they would show everyone that they were Jesus' disciples.

Have you been kind lately? Would the people around you know that you're a follower of Jesus just by the kindness you've shown? Because Jesus showed us how to love and show kindness to others, we can be kind and loving too. And when we are, we let others know that we are Jesus followers too.

Rest in Peace

Write Psalm 4:8 on a card and set it next to your bed. When you start to feel anxious, talk to God about what is worrying you. Then read this verse as a prayer to remind yourself that God is with you, so you can rest in peace.

DAY 3

Read Romans 14:19

One way to live in peace is to encourage the people around you and build them up. You have opportunities to do that every day. You could build someone up by choosing to be kind . . . or by listening . . . or by letting someone else go first . . . or by 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. If we want to be peacemakers, we need to be more focused on building others up.

Find a Jenga® game or a set of blocks. Practice building a tower with the blocks. What happens if you lay several blocks down at the bottom to create a solid foundation? What happens if you don't? Think about three people that you see almost every day (they could be family or friends). What can you do this week to build a solid foundation of peace in those relationships and build each other up? (Hint: Look at the paragraph above for ideas!)

DAY 4

Read Matthew 5:7

Circle the response that shows love in the scenarios below:

UP	RIGHT
HIGH	SLOW
LIGHT	END
LEFT	LOW
FAST	DARK
BEGINNING	DOWN

What is the opposite of PEACE? FIGHTING!

Doing what is RIGHT brings peace and rest. Choosing to listen instead of yell . . . stopping to take a deep breath instead of making a point . . . walking away instead of throwing something at your brother . . . is always the better choice. When you choose to do what is right instead of what you might WANT to do in the moment, you bring calm to the situation.

The next time you get into a disagreement with someone and you feel yourself getting angry, STOP and simply walk away. You might be surprised how doing the OPPOSITE of what you feel like doing in the moment turns things around!

Answer key: Up-Down, High-Low, Light-Dark, Left-Right, Fast-Slow, Beginning-End

**Make peace
whenever you can.**

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DAY 1

Read Romans 12:18

Live in peace with everyone? Really? What about the kid who always cheats to win? What about the one who NEVER plays fair? What about the one that bullies everyone else? Am I really supposed to live in peace with everyone?

Today's verse reminds us that we should do everything we can to live in peace with others. While you might not be able to control what someone else does, you can always choose to respond in a way that brings peace.

In some 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 look for peace.

Ask your grownup to tell you about a time when they let go of what was fair in order to find peace. What happened?

DAY 2

Read Proverbs 17:14

Have you visited a dam or studied them in school? Dams are built to store water for irrigation, provide drinking water or electricity, or to help control flooding. If a crack forms, it could potentially destroy the whole dam.

When we argue, it's like a tiny crack in the side of a dam. That little crack can become a BIG problem. It's better to stop a fight and become part of the solution so we can protect our relationships.

Let's Build a Dam

Gather a shallow plastic container, several sticks from outdoors, some dirt or sand, small rocks, and a bucket full of water. Head outside before you start building. Pour the dirt or sand in the bottom of the container. Make a river by digging a path through the dirt or sand. Use the popsicle sticks and rocks to construct a dam. Carefully pour water into one end of your container to test your dam. If you remove a small rock, how does that affect the structure of your dam?

DAY 3

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:16

When there's a disagreement, we want to make the other person see it "our" way, but peace doesn't work like that. In fact, sometimes the most peaceful thing you can do is to give up. To let it go. After all, you can show you care about others by letting go of what's fair.

Read the first sentence of today's verse again. Who gives you peace? Where does it come from? _____

Yep, God gives peace. And the good news is, there is an endless supply of God's peace!

Read the statement below, pausing after each line. Repeat it four times, picking a different voice for each round.

May the Lord who gives peace

Give you peace

At all times

And in every way.

Ask God to give you peace at all times, in every way, so that you can show you care about others by letting go of what's fair.

DAY 4

Read Numbers 6:24-26

God spoke these words to Moses as a message to give to the Israelites. It was a blessing God wanted Aaron (Moses' brother) and Aaron's sons to pray over the people. It was a reminder of God's goodness, love, and care for them, and God's promise to bring them peace.

Is there anyone you are fighting with right now? Do you have the courage to pray these words over that person?

A Prayer of Blessing

Pray and tell God you're sorry for your part of the argument. Ask God to help you keep the peace. Then, write in the name of the person you're fighting with in all the blanks below and repeat the verse aloud. (Go into your room or the bathroom if you want to be on your own as you pray.)

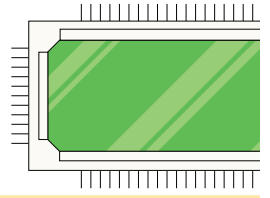
"May the Lord bless _____ and take good care of _____.

May the Lord smile on _____ and be gracious to _____.

May the Lord look on _____ with favor and give _____ peace."

You can show you care by letting go of what's fair.

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DAY 1

Read Matthew 5:9

Mirror Mirror

Grab a handheld mirror or go stand in front of the bathroom mirror. Make the silliest face you can. Now make a serious face. Next, an angry face. Lastly, just smile.

As you look at your image reflecting back at you, think on this truth: You are made in the image of God. Maybe you can't make a mountain appear out of nowhere or hear every prayer prayed at the same time. But you can love and forgive and feel and think like God! You have God's fingerprints all over you, and when you choose to bring peace to a situation, you reflect God! Just like when you look in a mirror. You show others you belong to God by the way you treat them. We look most like God when we choose peace.

DAY 2

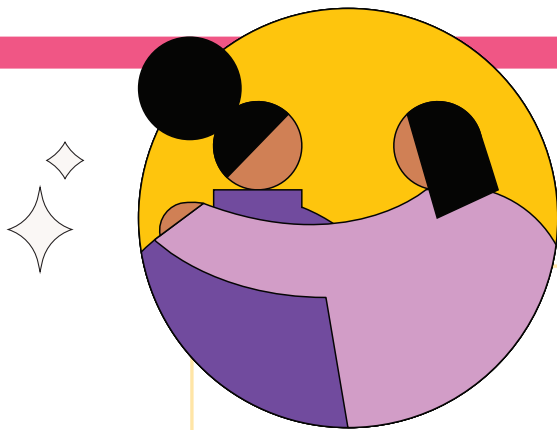
Read 2 Corinthians 13:11

Think about the last argument or disagreement you had with someone. Write that person's first initial in this blank. _____

What was your argument about? Do you remember? Are you still mad or holding a bit of a grudge?

Peace takes WORK. It's easy to get angry. It's much harder to work towards peace. Paul included these words of 2 Corinthians 13:11 in his letter to the church in Corinth. Right at the end, Paul told his readers to work to make things right, to help, to agree, and to LIVE in peace.

Think back again to your last argument. Do you need to apologize for something you said or did when you argued? Ask God to help you do the right thing—to say what you need to say so you can work towards peace.





DAY 3

Read James 3:18

When you first plant a seed, you don't see results right away. But if you keep at it—if you care for it, water it, give it plenty of sunlight—that seed will sprout and grow. The same is true of our relationships with others. We have to do everything we can to live in peace, to be part of the solution. We have to keep at it, knowing that in the long run, our relationships will be stronger and better when we work towards peace.

Plant Care

Are there plants in your home? Write down today's verse on a card and place it beside your plant. If you don't have any plants, draw a picture of one on a piece of paper instead. When you walk by your plant or drawing, remember that peace doesn't just happen. Just like you tend to a plant to help it grow, peace is something you have to work toward every day.

DAY 4

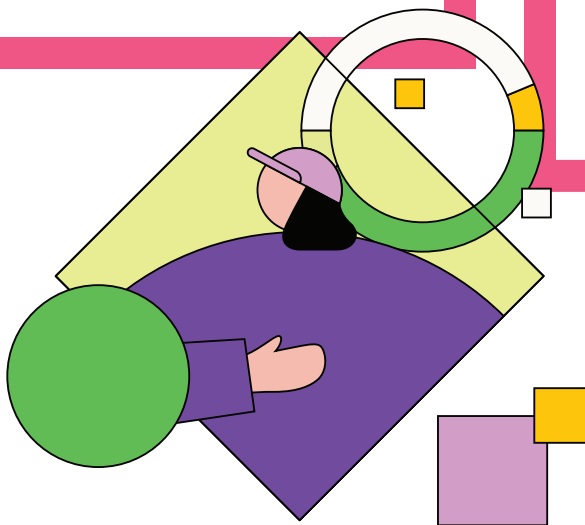
Read Psalm 34:14

When you lose something really important, what do you do? Do you say, "Oh well, I guess there's no point in looking. It's probably gone forever." NO way! You dig through drawers, you crawl under beds, you retrace your steps to check every place you've been, hoping to find what you've lost. In order to find it, 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 its own.

Look For It

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



**You can help others
make peace.**

Easter is celebrating that Jesus is alive.

DAY 1

Read John 16:33

Can you think of some things in the world that make you sad? Maybe someone is sick. Maybe a friend at school is mad at you. Maybe you saw something on the news that was scary. Sometimes when bad things happen, we ask, "God, where are you? Can't you fix this?"

The truth is, God already is with us and has already fixed it. Jesus was sent to be our Savior, to make a way for us to have a relationship with God. Of course, that doesn't mean that everyone on earth will stop sinning or messing up. In fact, we all still do things that make God sad, but God is still in control and loves us, and in the end, God promises to make everything right.

Jesus Wins

Grab some paper in two different colors. Cut a circle out of one color and streamers out of the other. Inside the circle write the words, "JESUS WINS!" Glue the streamers to the back of the circle to create a medal.

DAY 2

Read Acts 4:12

One Way To Unscramble

Unscramble the words below then read the phrases aloud.

One-way
S L G A S

One-way
R R I M R O

One-way
T R E S E T

One-way
I C T T K E

One-way
R T P I

When Peter and John stood before the religious leaders who'd had them arrested, they STILL shared boldly. They wanted everyone to know that Jesus came to be our Savior and came to fix our broken relationship with God.

Jesus made a way—the only way—for us to have a relationship with God. We can't be "good" enough, do enough right things, make enough good grades, or win enough championships to secure a spot in heaven. Because a relationship with God isn't something you earn, it's a gift you receive. It's offered to all who choose to put their trust in Jesus and what He has done.

Answer Key: glass, mirror, street, ticket, trip

DAY 3

Read Romans 5:1

2 + 2 =

30 + 8 =

4 X 0 =

12 X 1 =

Were any of those problems hard for you solve? Even if you needed a little help, they were fairly easy, right?

Peace isn't quite so easy. When you have a conflict with someone, when you argue or disagree, it's hard to see things from the other person's point of view. It's hard to stop and think, "How can we solve this problem?" in the middle of an argument. We're more interested in pointing out how the other person is wrong.

Thankfully, God doesn't do that.

God made people, and people sinned. Instead of listening to God, we decided to do things our own way. Because God loves us, Jesus came to fix that problem. God had a solution to the sin problem even while people were still messing up. God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin so we could be forgiven. Jesus came to be our Savior.

DAY 4

Read Luke 19:10

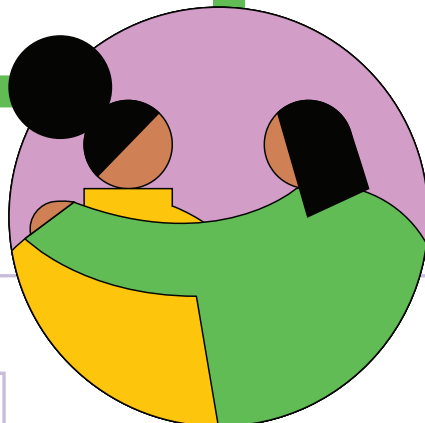
Hide and Seek

Grab some friends or family members and play a few rounds of Hide and Seek.

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What's the goal of Hide and Seek? To find all the people hiding! That's what Jesus came to do for us! Without Jesus, we are lost and our connection with God is broken. So God sent Jesus to "find" and rescue us.

You might be thinking, "What do I need to be rescued from?" The short answer is sin. Sin is anything that makes God sad. James 4:17 says when we know what the right thing to do is and we don't do it, we sin, and our sin gets in the way of our relationship with God. Jesus' death on the cross took the punishment for sin and when He rose again, He made a way for us to be forgiven. Jesus came to be our Savior.

Jesus came to be our Savior.





# Easter is celebrating that Jesus is alive.

## DAY 1

### Read Luke 24:6–7

Do you know what a prediction is?

A prediction is to declare or indicate in advance—in other words, to say what you believe will happen in the future.

When the women came to the tomb, the angels greeted them with unbelievable news. Jesus wasn't there, He had risen just as He said he would. Jesus knew what was coming before it even happened. It's the whole reason Jesus came to earth in the first place. Jesus came to give His life to make a way for us to have a relationship with God.

Read Jesus' prediction of these events in Mark 8:31 and Luke 9:22.

Jesus predicted three things:

1. He would be delivered into the hands of people—elders, chief priests, and teachers of the law who wanted to stop him.
2. He would be killed.
3. After three days, He would rise again.

Jesus died to take the punishment for our sin. He rose again to make a way for everyone who believes in Him to have a relationship with God. We celebrate Easter because Jesus is ALIVE!

## DAY 2

### Read Romans 6:9–10

Jesus died once to take the punishment for all sin. Three days later, Jesus came BACK to life! Did you hear that? Jesus is alive! Our sin has been forgiven. It no longer gets in the way of a relationship with God. Jesus died once and for all so that we can have a relationship with God that will last forever. And guess what? Jesus never has to do that again.

### Crack The Code

Use the code to find the message. The first letter represents the left hand vertical column, and the second letter is the horizontal column.

|   | J | P | Q | U |                            |
|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| J | E | W | O | K | JP JJ JJ PJ JQ JP          |
| P | N | T | C | I | PP QP UU PP                |
| Q | R | H | D | F | PQ QP QJ PU XJ PP          |
| U | L | V | H | A | JP UU XJ QJ UU PU XJ JJ QQ |
| X | S | M | G | * | QU QJ JQ XP PP QP JJ       |
|   |   |   |   |   | QQ JJ UU QQ UU PJ QQ       |
|   |   |   |   |   | JP PU UJ UJ PJ JJ UP JJ QJ |
|   |   |   |   |   | QQ PU JJ UU XQ UU PU PJ    |

Romans 6:9a, NlrV

Answer Key: "We know that Christ was raised from the dead and will never die again."

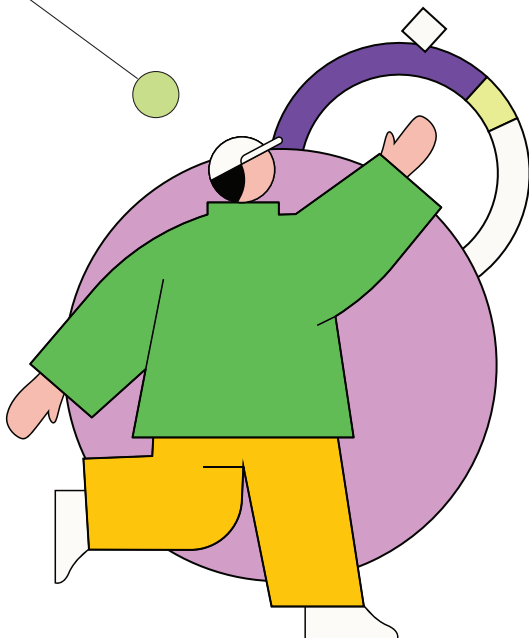
### DAY 3

## Read John 3:16

This verse is what the Bible is all about. God loves you, so did what people who love do: God gave. What did God give? Jesus: God's one and only Son. Jesus came to take the punishment for our sin, or the wrong things we do. When we believe in Jesus, we get to live with God forever. Because Jesus is alive, we are forgiven and have a relationship with God, now and forever!

### John 3:16: Illustrated

Grab a piece of paper and illustrate John 3:16 any way you choose. You can draw a heart for love, baby Jesus in a manger for "Son" etc. When you're finished, give your drawing to someone in your family or a friend. When you do, read through the verse and talk about what Jesus has done for us!



### DAY 4

## Read Acts 3:15

What is the coolest thing you've ever seen or experienced? What's the craziest, most outrageous thing you've seen in person, with your own two eyes?

When Jesus died, His friends were so sad and afraid. But Jesus' death wasn't the end. Because Jesus came back to life! We celebrate Easter year after year because Jesus is alive.

All of these events—the miracles of Jesus, His teaching, healing and helping—happened with other people around. That means there were witnesses who saw these things with their own eyes. People (like Peter who spoke the words in today's verse) witnessed Jesus' death and His resurrection.

Those witnesses were the ones who couldn't stop talking about what He had done. They wanted everyone to know about Jesus! And because they were brave enough to talk about what they'd seen and heard, more and more people became believers in Jesus. Over 2,000 years later, we celebrate Easter because of those witnesses who told others about what they'd seen so long ago.

## Jesus is alive.