

## 2.28 GOD'S CHILDREN ARE CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS

Topic: Learning to Live Out Our Faith

Subtopic: Called to be Peacemakers

3E. Reconciliation and Peacemaking

Class: Standard II (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Objectives:

**Knowledge:** When asked to define peacemakers, students will say peacemakers find solutions to problems by using a friendly process.

**Attitude:** Students will demonstrate use of three basic steps to solving problems in a peaceful manner.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise book

Exercise book

Chalkboard and chalk

Scripture:

**References:** Genesis 13:1-12

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!" Matthew 5:9

### TEACHER ACTIVITIES

#### Introduction:

1. When we make a friend out of an enemy, what have we done?
2. What do we do when problems arise that make us unhappy with each other?

#### Bible Story:

3. Listen how Abram and Lot solved their problem peacefully. Tell their story from Genesis 13:1-12

#### *Suggested Discussion Questions*

4. What was the problem that Abram and Lot had to deal with?
5. Who were struggling the most with this problem?
6. What did Abram suggest to Lot that they needed to do?
7. Did Abram take any risks when he made this suggestion?
8. How did they follow through with Abram's suggestion?

#### Application:

9. Can you be a peacemaker like Abram? How?
10. If we are living out our faith, are we called to be peacemakers?

#### Evaluation:

11. What are the three basic steps to being a peacemaker in problem solving?

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

#### Introduction:

1. We have made reconciliation.
2. We need to become peacemakers.

#### Bible Story:

3. Abram and Lot solved a problem by using basic steps for peacemaking.

#### *Possible Answers to Questions:*

4. They had too many sheep, goats and cattle for the land space to care for them.
5. Quarrels broke out between the men who took care of Abram's animals and those who took care of Lot's.
6. Abram suggested he and Lot divide the land between them. He gave Lot first choice of which land he took.
7. It was all Abram's land. He knew Lot could choose the best land which would leave him with poorer land.
8. Lot did choose the better land and he settled on it.

#### Application:

9. Students will think about problems they face and consider how they can solve the problem peacefully.
10. Students discuss and commit new memory verse to memory.

#### Evaluation:

11. a) define the problem; b) produce solutions; c) choose and act on solution.

### **Extension Activities**

1. Have students write the new memory verse in their Memory Verse Exercise book: "Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!" Matthew 5:9
2. In exercise book, have them write: "Living Out Our Faith". Underneath, write "Called to Be Peacemakers" Beneath that, write the definition for Peacemakers: Persons who restore friendly relations.
3. Practice being a peacemaker by experiencing the three steps to peaceful problem-solving. Use a problem that is appropriate with your students. Here is an example: Isaac's seat is close to the place where the teacher keeps the ball used during recess. Every day he grabs that ball and then keeps the ball to himself and one friend during recess time. Others would like to play but when they try to get involved they are told they aren't invited. How can you be a peacemaker in this situation? Have the students follow the three basic rules for problem solving peacefully: a) Define the problem; b) brainstorm potential solutions; c) choose one and act. When a successful solution has been found, discuss the process with the students. Why did it work? Is it a process they could use every day?

## **NOTES FOR TEACHERS**

### **Highlights for the Bible Story**

1. Abram had obeyed God when He asked him to leave his relatives and go where He would show him. He had taken his wife and all his goats, sheep, cattle and people to help him take care of his animals. His nephew, Lot, had also gone with his family and all his animals with their helpers.
2. When they arrived at the place where they were going to stay, it became apparent that it wasn't going to work. The animal care givers quarreled with one another because there wasn't enough room to provide food and care for all the animals
3. Abram realized that they had to solve this problem. He reminded Lot that they were relatives. They should work this problem out. There was no need for Abram's men and Lot's men to quarrel.
4. Abram made the suggestion that the two of them separate. He offered Lot the chance of choosing what part of the land he wanted.
5. Lot chose the better area. It had plenty of water. It was closer to the cities in the valley.
6. Abram agreed for Lot to take that land and he stayed in the land of Canaan.
7. They had recognized a problem they were facing. They discussed a solution to the problem. They made their choice and acted on their choice. It had all been done peacefully.

### **Being a Peacemaker in Problem Solving: Three basic techniques**

God tells us that we are to be peacemakers. God says that for those who work for peace, He will call them His children! So when a problem arises, how can we solve it peacefully? There are three basic techniques.

1. Define the problem. Be careful that you define the problem. Don't focus on the people involved.

2. Brainstorm solutions. This needs to involve those who are a part of the problem as well as those who observe the problem. List these suggestions on the blackboard.
3. Choose the most workable solution the group can agree on and act on it. Sometimes you may have to combine two of the suggestions to come to an agreement. Talking about a solution does not solve it so once the group agrees, action needs to follow.
4. Students will most likely discover that it is important that everyone agrees to work on the problem. Once the solution is decided on, everyone needs to abide by that decision and act appropriately.

### **Key Point**

One of the ways we live out our faith as followers of Jesus is to be a peacemaker or work for peace. Peacemaking can occur in many walks of life. Peacemaking is often required in solving problems that arise. Learning the basic techniques for problem solving and putting them into practice is a good foundation for becoming a peacemaker.

### **Teacher Evaluation**

Have I modeled for these students how to solve problems peacefully? Do I exercise the basic techniques for solving problems in my everyday life among my family, my peers, my neighbors, my church, my community? Do I want to be called a child of God as He promises if I am a peacemaker? Do I understand this well enough to help these students practice being a peacemaker in problem solving?