

Lesson 4.9: Isaac's Wells--Peaceful Solutions

Topic: Seeking Peaceful Solutions
Subtopic: 4A Appreciating Differences
4D Managing Conflict

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will be able to tell a peaceful solution to a conflict.

Attitude: Students will seek peaceful ways to solve conflict.

Materials:
Blackboard and Chalk
Exercise Book

References: Genesis 26:1-5,16-32;
Peace Education Lesson 16 & 18

Memory Verse:
Romans 12:18

Teacher Activities

Introduction: If you have the perception squares (L16 in *Peace Education*), ask the children to say how many squares they see. Ask: "Can you think of a time when you argued with someone and you both thought you were right?" Share about it. [Point out that we each may see things differently. We can have different ideas and both are right.]

Bible Story:

Briefly tell the story of Isaac's Wells.

Discussion questions:

1. Why did Abimelech want Isaac to leave?
3. What would you have done if you were Isaac and people kept telling you to move?
4. How did Isaac show he was a friend of God? How did God reward him?
5. Did Abimelech have a good reason to want Isaac to leave? Did Isaac have a good reason to be angry with Abimelech?
6. Why did Abimelech come back to Isaac at the end? Isaac's peaceful ways led to friendship.
7. Review the definition of peace.

Application: Share a time when a peaceful response led to a good outcome.

Evaluation: Use the stories about Jason, Mileka and Diana (See teacher's notes) to evaluate students' ability to think of peaceful solutions to a conflict.

Student Activities

Introduction:

Answer the questions

Bible Story:

1. Isaac was so prosperous Abimelech was fearful he was getting too strong.
3. *Answers will vary. Encourage students to be honest.*
4. He did not argue or become angry. God blessed him with water over and over again.
5. Yes. Isaac could have made war against Abimelech if he wanted to because he was very prosperous and strong. Yes, the Philistines kept making him move and taking his wells.
6. Abimelech saw that God was blessing Isaac and he wanted to be friends, not enemies.
7. Peace is harmonious living and respect for human life through God's guidance.

Application:

Allow students to share times they responded peacefully even though someone did something unfair or unkind.

Evaluation: Were students able to think of peaceful solutions to various conflict situations?

Extension Activities:

Write a peaceful ending to the story about Jason, Mileka and Diana. They can do this alone or in small groups.

Read The Blind Men and the Elephant. Ask: What is the main idea of this story? When would more information help stop conflict and bring peace? (See *Peace Education* Lesson 18 for more discussion questions.)

Drama: Students may enjoy acting out the story of Jacob's wells. You will need Jacob, Abimelech, Jacob's servants and shepherds of Gerar. You can read the story (Genesis 26:1-5,16-32) as they participate in the action. You may want to do this instead of telling the story during the Bible Story time.

Notes for Teacher

The story of Jacob's Wells is an excellent example of how living peacefully is not always easy but it can lead to friendly relationships with others.. It would not be easy to walk away from a good well when you and your livestock really need the water. Jacob was willing to suffer a great loss, however, in order to have a peaceful relationship with his neighbors. He was able to walk away because he was trusting God to bless him with another well.

It is important to point out to your students that Jacob was depending on God. God had told him to stay in this area and God had promised to bless Jacob if he obeyed. Therefore, Jacob knew he could depend on God to help him. In a different situation God might give different instructions. It is important to pray and seek God for instructions for a specific situation. *Review the definition of peace with your class.* **"Peace is harmonious living and respect for human life through God's guidance."**

Key Point: A peaceful response to conflict can lead to friendship and peace.

Evaluation: To evaluate students' ability to think of peaceful responses, discuss the story below. Jason, Mileka and Diana are in the same family. They decided to put all their money together and buy a bike. They agreed that they would take turns riding it. Mileka rode the bike to school the first day and an older boy named Gideon, pushed her off and took the bike. Jason found the bike and took it back when the boy was not looking Now Jason says he is the only one who can ride the bike to school because the girls will lose it. Diana says this is not fair. She wants to punish Gideon by taking something of his. The three siblings are arguing over the bike and what they should do about Gideon. What do you think? [Discuss this with the class and then add this information: Mileka did not tell the others that she had been making fun of Gideon before he pushed her off.] Ask: Does having more information change how you feel about things? Does it change what you would do? What do you think Isaac would have done? Encourage students to pray about conflicts and ask God what they should do.