

Lesson 7.10 Peacemaker Tool: Scripture

Topic: Model for Peacemaking

Subtopic: Scripture

2B. Scripture

Class: Standard VII (Grade 7)

Objectives:

Knowledge: Students will know that Scripture can help us have inner peace.

Attitude: Students will desire to become more competent in using the Bible and read it regularly.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

Optional: Bible Dictionary & Concordance

References: Matthew 12: 1-21

Memory Verse: Review Previous Memory Verses.

Teacher Activities

Introduction: *Optional: Worship time.*

Students, you have just learned you are going to be taken to a wilderness area for three days. Think together what you must have in order to survive. (Limited to 10 things for a group of 4.)

Bible Story: Read Matthew 12:1-21. One of the important lessons of peacemaking is learning where to find your own inner peace in the midst of those who verbally criticize you. Point out that Jesus used scripture when he was being criticized.

Application: *Discuss.* Have you ever stood up for what you believed and then found yourself in conflict with someone else? How does memorizing scripture help us? Why does living in unity with our own values and having peace within sometimes lead to conflict with others?

Review Questions.

Evaluation: Were students able to answer the review questions? Are they applying these lessons in real life situations?

Student Activities

Introduction: Students in groups of four use their journals to list the ten things they believe are necessary for survival. After 5 minutes one person from each group reports to the class. *Create a master list of items on the board. Did the students include the Bible in their list?*

Bible Story: Listen to the scripture reading. Discuss the verses. How did Jesus keep peace and maintain His personal strength?

Application: *Discuss the questions. Journal.*

1. Do you have a favorite Bible verse which is a source of strength to you?
2. Why is it even more important to have peace with God and our own heart than with others?

Evaluation: Do students understand how the scriptures can help us be more effective as peacemakers? Are they memorizing verses?

Extension Activities: *Worship.* Begin the class with a time of worship. Invite students to continue in worship leadership with worship singing, prayer, and Scripture. Remind the leaders to use the ACTS prayer model from last week's lesson. *Memory Verses.* Review all previous memory verses. Call on students to recite each verse.

Bible Reference Helps. If these are available, introduce Bible footnotes, chain references, and concordances to help students find verses and equip them to gain greater knowledge of Scripture. *Why Scripture is important.* The Bible is the Word of God. It is one way we get to know God because He speaks to us through His word. How do we know this? Review II Timothy 3:16 and II Peter 1:20-21.

Notes for Teacher

This is the last lesson on Jesus, the Model Peacemaker. Last week we learned one tool that Jesus used to help Him remain calm during crisis—prayer. Today we learn about a second tool—scripture. There is also a short review at the end of this lesson.

Key Concept: Scripture is a source of strength and an important tool for peacemakers.

Introduction Activity:

Divide the class into groups of four. Provide them with paper and pens or use their exercise books. Give these directions: **You have just learned that you are going to be taken to a wilderness area for three days. Your group of four is limited to 10 things you will carry in your backpacks. You are to think together what things you must have in order to survive for three days.** Give them five minutes to think it through. Then have a few groups share what they thought was necessary as you write the list on the board. (They will need such things as a flashlight (torch), water, something for sleeping such as a sleeping bag or insulated cover, matches for starting fire, and so on.) **Did any group include the Bible in their list?** Listen carefully to what they consider as essential and allow discussion.

How important is God’s Word to You? Did you include a Bible as a part of your survival kit? If so, why did it seem important? (*Needed the assurance that God would be with them, could read the promises and find guidance*). If they did not include the Bible, ask them about how they are going to maintain their relationship with God when they are on a venture such as this (*prayer, repeating memorized verses, singing hymns, and choruses, etc.*).

Bible Story: Have student readers divide up the reading from Matthew 12:1-21. One of the important lessons of peacemaking is learning where to find your own inner peace in the midst of those who verbally criticize you.

Discussion Guide:

- Who is criticizing Jesus in this passage? (The Jewish religious leaders, the Pharisees) Does Jesus argue with them? (No; He stays calm)
- How serious is this criticism? (This is serious; they plan to kill him)
- What does Jesus quote from as he reads? (In face of this opposition, Jesus draws strength from a passage of scripture from Isaiah 42 which refers to the Messiah as a “suffering servant,” Matthew 12:18-21.)
- Why does living in unity with our own values and having peace within sometimes lead to conflict with others?

Application. Point out that **scripture is a source of strength and an important tool for peacemakers.** Use some or all of the following questions to guide the discussion.

- Have you ever stood up for what you believed and then found yourself in conflict with someone else?

- How does memorizing scripture help us? (When we need encouragement or guidance we can review and remember these passages.)
- Why does living in unity with our own values and having peace within sometimes lead to conflict with others?
- Why is it more important to have peace with God and in our own heart than with others?

Review Questions.

1. **What kind of conflict did Jesus face?** (The Jewish leaders, Sadducees and Pharisees wanted an excuse to arrest Him, Satan tempted Him with power, wealth and basic needs, even His disciples misunderstood Him)

2. **How did Jesus handle conflict?** (He stayed calm, Was assertive and said what He thought but He did not let Himself get drawn into arguments or run away in fear; He used scripture to defeat temptation)

3. **What are some of the causes of conflict that we learned about?** *Many possible answers including:* jealousy, fear, greed, lack of integrity, wealth and power)

4. **If a friend was trying to get you to tease another student, what should you do?**
(Say No or walk away. Discuss different ways to say NO.)

5. **If you wanted to express how you feel without starting a fight, what could you do?**
(Use an I-statement.)

6. **Give an example of an I-statement you might use if someone is calling you names.**
(I feel _____ when _____. I want _____)

7. **How did Jesus use scripture to help Him when He was tempted to do something wrong?** (He quoted verses. Memorizing scripture can be a powerful help when we need to calm down or do the right thing.)

8. **It is important for a peacemaker to stay calm even if other people are getting upset or there is conflict around you. What do we have to help us in our work of peacemaking?** (friends, scripture, prayer and the Holy Spirit)