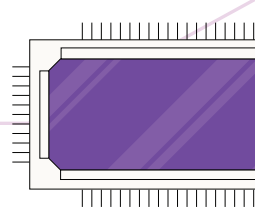


Peace is proving you care more about each other than winning an argument.



DAY 1

Read Romans 12:18, NIV

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

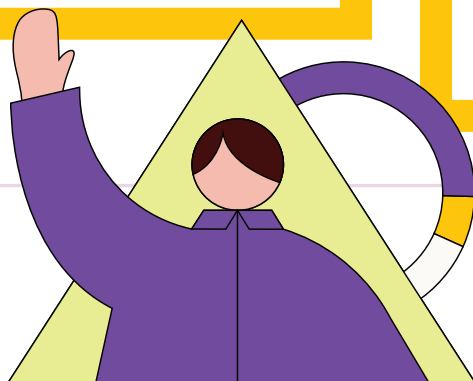
Read Proverbs 17:14, NIV

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, NIV

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, NIV

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.