

Living Peacefully

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 13****Focus:**

God helps us deal with conflict.

Lesson 13**Bible Basis:**

Genesis 26:1-6,
12-33; Philippians
4:19

Lesson 13**Memory Verse:**

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace.
—Romans 14:19a

Students will consider some reasons for conflict and will commit to doing what leads to peace.

Materials:

- Internet access

When a large number of people are together in a confined space for a long time, conflict can arise. Children spend many hours together in schools, and some schools—elementary through high school—experience fighting among the students.

In an effort to promote peace in her school, one high school in Texas implemented strict new disciplinary measures to deter students from fighting. Some of the possible punishments for fighting in this school include:

- Facing in-school or out-of-school suspension
- Being sent to a disciplinary alternative education school
- Paying a fine or doing community service
- Being sent to see a judge in court for a misdemeanor assault charge

While the severity of the punishment depends on the severity of the fighting, none of these consequences sound fun!

➤ **Why do you think peace in this school is so important that the school's administration would threaten such punishments?** (Answers may include: fighting disrupts the learning environment; teachers are tired of breaking up fights; they want peace for their students; etc.)

➤ **Do you think this plan for peace by threatening consequences for fighting is a good idea or a bad idea? Why?** (Answers may be divided. While the idea looks as if it is working, some students may realize that if students get used to doing the right thing only when they fear punishment, they may eventually risk punishment and continue fighting.)

➤ **How would you rate your school on a peace scale, one meaning there is a lot of conflict and five meaning there is a lot of peace? Explain the rating you give your school.** (Answers will vary.)

Whose responsibility is it to keep peace in your school? (Answers will vary but may include: principal, teachers, school police, students, everyone.)

Conflict can arise on a school bus, at a sports game, during after-school club, or in the process of a conversation. Conflict can come up between family members or friends, not only between classmates or enemies.

➤ **How do you feel inside when you are involved in conflict with others?** (Answers may include: angry, sad, depressed, torn, etc.)

➤ **What are some reasons for conflict?** (Answers will vary; answers might include different opinions, disagreements, not getting one's own way, etc.)

➤ **What do you do when conflict arises between you and another person?** (Answers will vary.)

Our response to a difficult situation could make the difference between conflict and peace. Isaac faced a situation that could have resulted in a fight. Let's see if what he did can help us when we are faced with potential conflicts.

Story source:

<https://eaglenationonline.com/39084/news/school-implements-new-steps-to-help-prevent-fighting/>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 13 / November 24, 2024

Living Peacefully

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 13**Focus:**

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12-33; Philippians
4:19

Lesson 13**Memory Verse:**

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to do what leads to peace.
—Romans 14:19a

Materials:

- Internet access
- Index cards (1 per student)
- Pens/pencils
- Optional: colored pencils or markers

If your class is meeting online, invite them to bring supplies (and the optional colored pencils or markers) with them to class.

In today's Bible lesson, Isaac went to great lengths to avoid fighting with others.

➤ **Based on Isaac's example, what do you plan to do the next time the potential for conflict arises?** (Answers will vary.)

Earlier you rated your school on a peace scale, one meaning there is a lot of conflict and five meaning there is a lot of peace.

➤ **How do you rate yourself when it comes to conflicts and peace? Are you more of a fighter or a peacemaker?** (Answers will vary.)

We are going to make cards as a reminder to let God help us resolve conflict. Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). As your students work on their cards, challenge them to make a personal commitment to do what they can, with God's help, to keep the peace with others.

Guide the students in the following:

On one side of the index card write the memory verse: "...make every effort to do what leads to peace" Romans 14:19. On the other card, write down a conflict you are experiencing at school or home. Write the conflict small enough that you can add to or change the conflict side of the card as God helps you make peace in that area.

Tell your preteens to place their signs in their lockers or use them as bookmarks so they can see the cards and trust God with their conflicts.

When conflict arises at school, write the conflict and then read the memory verse and pray for God's help to do what leads to peace.

Close in prayer, asking God to help us live peacefully with others.

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