



A Biblical Peacemaking Lesson  
For ages 3 – 12

Children's Peacemaking Lesson  
for  
International Peace Day  
September 21, 2014

pinwheels for peace



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For information concerning the curriculum *Grow, Proclaim, Serve*: <http://www.growproclaimserve.com/>

Also: [http://www.growproclaimserve.com/this\\_sunday/one-room-sunday-school/?date=2014-08-03](http://www.growproclaimserve.com/this_sunday/one-room-sunday-school/?date=2014-08-03)

# Abraham and Lot

## Bible Verse

Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children. (Matthew 5:9)

## Bible Story

Genesis 13

## Leap of Faith

I can be a peacemaker.

## Before You Begin

**T**his month we will look at the importance of being peacemakers and living together peacefully in a world that is crowded and ever more in ideological conflict.

Today we begin our look at peaceful living at its most basic—living together as a family. With ever-increasing diversity of types of families, it can be even more challenging to live together peacefully.

Abraham is called by God to go to Canaan. He has been given a promise by God that he will have many descendents and that through him all will prosper. With Abram (who has not been named Abraham yet) goes his extended family, including his nephew Lot and Lot's family. They have with them flocks, cattle, tents, and workers. Both Abram and Lot are rich.

Abram pitches his tent between Bethel and Ai and there builds an altar. Abram and Lot have so many possessions that the land will not support both of their families and flocks. They can no longer live together. Disputes break out between the herders of Abram's and Lot's livestock. Something has to be done.

Abram, trusting in God's promise, does probably the only thing that will allow them to settle the dispute peacefully. Abram says to Lot, "Let's not have disputes between me and you and between our herders since we are relatives" (Genesis 13:8). He then gives Lot the choice of the land. Lot may decide where he will settle, and Abram will take the portion that Lot does not choose.

It is difficult for most of us to let someone choose before we do ourselves. For children it is even more difficult. For young children everything is "mine," and for older children the issue is often one of "fairness." Children deal fairly well with the concept of "peace for the world," but peace at home is difficult because they are afraid they won't get their fair share or somebody else might get what they want. Younger children view life as unfair because older siblings get to do things first. Older children and teenagers view life as unfair because the younger sibling gets something the older one never had or gets to do something at an earlier age. Or chores are perceived to be divided unequally, and on and on.

All decisions we make about peace affect how peaceful the world becomes. If we are peaceful at home, we're more likely to be peaceful with friends and with enemies. There will be some continuing activities throughout the next five sessions.

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**Session 10**  
**August 3**

Visit [growproclaimserve.com/leaders](http://growproclaimserve.com/leaders) to join the community with other leaders and find helpful weekly content and articles.



Requires preparation.



# My Teaching Plan

## Learning Experiences I Will Use

## Planning Notes to Myself

### Grow Together (5 to 10 minutes)

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- Get Ready
- Fun Beginnings
- Gather Round

### Proclaim the Word (20 to 30 minutes)

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#### For Everyone

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- Act Out the Story
- Visit Leaper's Pointe
- Learn a New Song

#### For Nonreaders

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- Abraham and Lot

#### For All Readers

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- Letter Clues

### Serve With Love (10 to 15 minutes)

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#### For Everyone

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- Peace Symbol Poster
- Peace Symbol: Sheep

#### For All Readers

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- Make Pinwheels

#### For Nonreaders

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- Count to Ten

#### For All Readers

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- Ten Ways to Be a Peacemaker
- Pinwheels for Peace

### Worship (5 to 10 minutes)

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- Sign the Bible Verse
- Sing and Pray



# Grow Together

## Get Ready

Supplies: Attendance Chart (Resource Pak—p. 2), CD-ROM or DVD and player

- Display the Attendance Chart (Resource Pak—p. 2)

**TIP:** Do not put up the Unit 3 Bible Verse poster until after the Letter Clues activity (page 86), as the Bible verse is the answer to the puzzle in that activity.

- Play “Leap of Faith” in the background (on the CD-ROM or, if you are using the music video, the DVD) as the children arrive.
- Greet each child, and mark each child’s attendance.
- Show the children where to place any offerings.



Resource Pak—p. 2

## Fun Beginnings

Choose one or both of the following activities to do as the children arrive.

### Livestock Divide

Supplies: Livestock Divide Cards (Resource Pak—p. 8)

- Separate the Livestock Divide Cards.
- Lay out all the cards face up on the table.

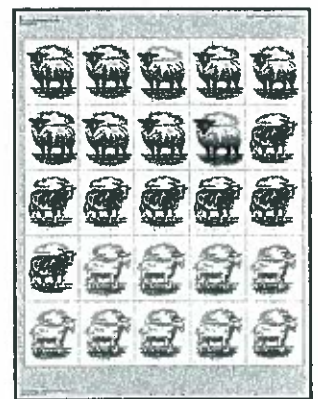
**SAY:** I want you to work together to divide all the cards equally among yourselves.

**NOTE:** The point of this exercise is to make sure that it is difficult to make the decision of fair distribution. You may have to adjust number of cards according to the number of children.

- Let the children work out what they feel is fair. If they begin to get discouraged, stop the activity.

**ASK:** Was it difficult to decide what was fair? Why, or why not?

**SAY:** Today’s story is about making decisions that are not about fairness but about living peacefully, about getting along with family members.



Resource Pak—p. 8

### Sheep Tag

Supplies: Livestock Divide Cards (Resource Pak—p. 8), masking tape

- Use the masking tape to designate an area in the room as the “sheep pen.”

**SAY:** Sheep are known for wandering away and getting lost or following another sheep into trouble. That’s why they need herders or herd dogs to get them safely into their pen at night. We’re going to play a game of “sheep tag.”

- Choose one person to be the herder.
- Have all other children use a loop of tape on the back of a sheep card and tape it to their chests (like a nametag).

- Explain the rules: The herder will attempt to tag the sheep and put them in the pen. The sheep are to avoid being tagged.
- If the herder tags the sheep, the tagged sheep must go to the sheep pen.
- The herder has two minutes to get as many sheep in the pen as possible.
- Give a signal for the sheep to begin running; then after about five seconds, signal for the herder to begin chasing the sheep.

**SAY:** Today's Bible story is about a family who had so many sheep and other livestock that the members could no longer all live on the same land. They had to find a peaceful way to divide their land.

## Gather Round

**Supplies:** birthday chart created earlier (Leader's Guide—p. 9), markers

- Have the children sit together on the floor or around a table near the birthday chart for the quarter.
- Give them a chance to share any news of the week.
- Celebrate birthdays that have occurred or will occur in the coming week. Let those children add their names to the chart.

**PRAY:** God, thank you for these boys and girls. Thank you for the good things this week, and thank you for being with us in the difficult moments too. Help us to discover ways we can be peacemakers in our family. Amen.

# Proclaim the Word

## For Everyone

### Act Out the Story

**Supplies:** Bibles, Activity 10a

- Invite the children to the storytelling area.
- Assign the parts of Chrissy, Brittany, Mr. Gilbert, and Matthew.
- Ask the other children to be the audience.

**SAY:** Today we will be hearing the Bible story through listening to a Sunday school class that's something like our class.

- Have the readers act out "The Great Divide."

**ASK:** God had given the land to Abraham. Why, do you think, did Abraham give the first choice of where to live to his nephew Lot? (*To Abraham, peace in the family was more important than who got which piece of land.*) What did Lot choose as his portion? (*the part he thought looked the largest and the best*) What did Abraham get? (*the land that was left*) Do you think Abraham got a good deal? (*Yes, he got what God had already chosen for him.*)



**Activity 10a**

## Visit Leaper's Pointe

Supplies: DVD, DVD player

- The DVD can be used in place of or in addition to the storytelling section.
- The DVD also contains music videos for the children to sing and dance to. Use these during the worship time.
- Invite the children to sit down where they can easily see the screen and watch Session 10.

**SAY:** Harley and Farley are not getting along. They're arguing about everything! They need to learn how to compromise. Rosie and Merrilee explain what the twins need to do. Let's listen in.

## Learn a New Song

Supplies: Lyrics (Resource Pak—p. 11), CD-ROM or DVD and player

- Introduce "Peace and Love," a new song for the unit.
- Read through the words of the song. Use the CD-ROM (Track 4), or photocopy the lyrics for each child (Resource Pak—p. 11).
- Play the song, encouraging the children to sing along. If you are using the DVD, the children can imitate the dance moves of the children shown there.



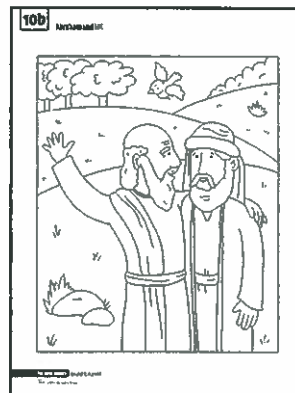
Resource Pak—p. 11

## For Nonreaders

### Abraham and Lot

Supplies: Activity 10b, crayons

- Give each child of a copy of "Abraham and Lot" (Activity 10b) and some crayons.
- Have the children color the picture.



Activity 10b

## For All Readers

### Letter Clues

Supplies: Bibles, Activity 10c, paper, pencils

- Give each child a pencil, a copy of "Letter Clues" (Activity 10c), and an extra sheet of paper.
- Explain that they are to follow the clues to solve the puzzle.
- Read the hint at the bottom of the page.

**TIP:** This activity is difficult for beginning readers, so pair them with skilled readers; or you may choose to have the beginning readers color Abraham and Lot (Activity 10b).



Activity 10c

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# Serve With Love

## For Everyone

### Symbols-of-Peace Poster

Supplies: Symbols-of-Peace Poster (Resource Pak—p. 17), adhesive

**SAY:** For the month of August we will be working on becoming peacemakers. Each week we will create a symbol to add to our Symbols-of-Peace Poster.

- Ask two volunteers to work together to adhere the poster to a central wall.
- Leave this poster in place for the rest of August.

### Peace Symbol: Sheep

Supplies: Symbols-of-Peace Poster (Resource Pak—p. 17), Activity 6c, notebook reinforcers, adhesive, scissors

- Copy a reduced size of the sheep.

**TIP:** You have used the sheep outline in Session 6. Copy a new sheep pattern for this activity. You have the option of the children working together on one sheep and adding it to the Symbols-of-Peace Poster or letting each child create his or her own sheep and adding it to the wall around the poster. Remember that there will be new symbols for each week this month.

- Cut out the sheep.

**SAY:** We are using the sheep as a symbol of peace to remind ourselves of Abraham letting his nephew Lot have first choice of the land for his livestock. God wants us to live in peaceful families.

- Apply reinforcers to the inside of the sheep to create the sheep's wool.
- Attach the sheep to or around the poster. Leave the bottom of the poster clear for the olive-branch heart, which will be made in Session 12.

## For All Readers

### Make Pinwheels

Supplies: Activity 10e, Activity 10f, scissors, new pencils with eraser, straight pins with ball top (for adult use only)

**SAY:** Pinwheels are now being used in many places as a symbol of peace. We're going to make peace pinwheels.

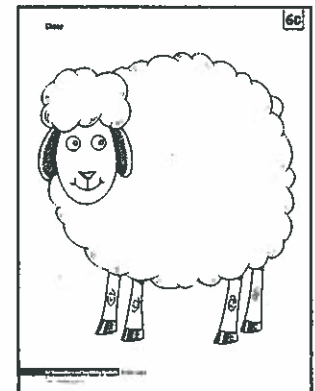
- Follow the directions on Activity 10e to make the pinwheels.

**CAUTION:** An adult, not the children, should attach the straight pin to the eraser.

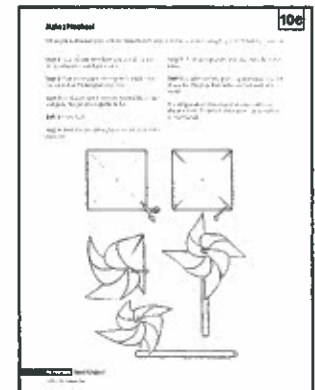
**TIP:** Younger children do not have the fine motor skills for this activity and will need help from you and the older children.



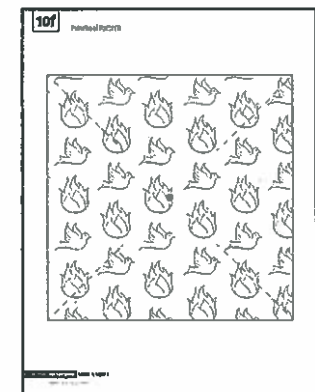
Resource Pak—p. 17



Activity 6c



Activity 10e



Activity 10f

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- Blow on the pinwheels to make them turn.
- Send the pinwheels home.

## For Nonreaders

### Count to Ten

**SAY:** When we get angry, it's not good to scream, cry, or yell at people. Sometimes that just makes things worse. One way to feel more peaceful when you get angry is to count to ten.

- Have children count to ten.
- Ask each child something that makes him or her angry. Tell the children that the next time they get angry they can try counting to ten.

**SAY:** The next time something happens that makes you angry, remember to count to ten before you say or do anything.

## For All Readers

### Ten Ways to Be a Peacemaker

Supplies: Activity 10d

**SAY:** There are some things that we can learn so that we can be peacemakers in our family, in our school, in our church, in our town.

- Give each child a copy of "Ten Ways to Be a Peacemaker" (Activity 10d).
- Read the list one at a time, stopping where it's appropriate to allow the children to discuss why the statement is important, for the children to give examples, or for both.

**SAY:** If we want a peaceful world, peace must begin with us. And the best places to practice being peaceful are the places you are every day.

### Pinwheels for Peace

Supplies: Activity 10g

**SAY:** We made pinwheels today. The church sometimes uses pinwheels for a symbol of Pentecost, because they turn in the wind. However, in recent years they have also become a symbol of peace. Let's find out how that has happened.

- Give each child a copy of Pinwheels for Peace (Activity 10g).
- Read about how pinwheels became a peace symbol.

**Exercise Answer Sheet 10c**

H A P P Y A R E T H O S E  
 P E O P L E W H O M A K E P E A C E  
 B E C A U S E T H E Y W I L L B E  
 C A L L E D G O D ' S C H I L D R E N

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

**10d** Ten Ways to Be a Peacemaker

1. We speak peace to others.
2. Don't talk back to others.
3. Be fair to everyone.
4. Be a good listener.
5. Be a friend of everyone who is in need.
6. Think "After me, please!"
7. Apologize when you have done something wrong.
8. Express when someone speaks to you.
9. Be a peacemaker in your home and school.
10. Be a peacemaker in your neighborhood.

11. Be a peacemaker in your church.

12. Be a peacemaker in your town.

13. Be a peacemaker in your world.

14. Be a peacemaker in your life.

Activity 10d

**10g** Pinwheels for Peace

**Did You Know?**

Pinwheels are a symbol of peace. They were first used by the Quakers in the 17th century. The Quakers were a group of people who believed in peace and non-violence. They used pinwheels to symbolize their faith and their commitment to peace.

Pinwheels are also a symbol of Pentecost. Pentecost is a Christian holiday that celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. The Holy Spirit is often depicted as a dove, and pinwheels are a symbol of the Holy Spirit's power and presence.

Pinwheels are also a symbol of hope and optimism. They are a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always a glimmer of hope and a chance for a better future.

Activity 10g



# Worship

## Sign the Bible Verse

Supplies: DVD and DVD player, or the signing on page 128 of this Leader's Guide

- Teach the children to sign this month's new Bible verse, Matthew 5:9.
- Watch the signing on the DVD, or use the signing on page 128.

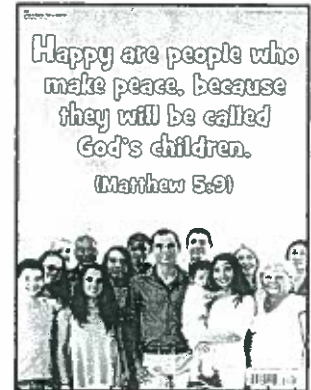
## Sing and Pray

Supplies: Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Resource Pak—p. 24), CD-ROM, CD player

- Play "Peace and Love" (CD-ROM Track 4) as the children gather near the worship table.
- Invite the children to sing along.
- Post the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster.
- Have a volunteer read Matthew 5:9.

**SAY:** The children of God are to be peacemakers.

**PRAY:** God, thank you for giving us Jesus to teach us about peace. We ask for the strength to have peaceful hearts this week. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Resource Pak—p. 24

### Unit 3 Bible Verse

Happy are people who make peace, because they will be called God's children. (Matthew 5:9)



Happy

Hold both hands with palms open and facing the chest, thumbs pointing up. Pat the chest in an upward motion several times.



peace

Place the right palm on top of the left palm. Turn your hands so that the left palm is on top of the right palm. Move both palms down and to the sides.



children

Move both hands, palms, down, as if you are patting the heads of several children.



**“Happy are people who make peace,  
because they will be called God’s  
children.”**

*Matthew 5:9*

**Chrissy:**

Hi, Brittany. Look! My mom sent cupcakes for class. You can take any cupcake but these two. They're strawberry, and strawberry is my favorite.

**Brittany:**

But there are two strawberry cupcakes. Why can't I have one of them?

**Chrissy:**

Because it's my birthday and I want both of them. In fact, I think I'll hide them from the others.

**Brittany:**

That's not fair, is it, Mr. Gilbert?

**Mr. Gilbert:**

They are Chrissy's cupcakes. But Chrissy, generosity and keeping peace are very important, more important than cupcakes. Let me tell you a story.

**Chrissy:**

Which Bible story is it this time?

**Mr. Gilbert:**

The story of Abram and his nephew Lot.

**Matthew:**

Who's Abram?

**Mr. Gilbert:**

That was Abraham's name before God changed it to Abraham. I'll call him Abraham to make it easier.

**Brittany:**

Thanks.

**Mr. Gilbert:**

Abraham and Lot traveled to the land that God had told Abraham would be his home. They were both very rich men. And they had a lot of livestock.

**Matthew:**

What's livestock?

**Mr. Gilbert:**

That's animals that farmers raise. In this case, goats, sheep, and cattle. As I was saying, they had too much livestock to live on the same land. This caused a lot of trouble with the herders of both men.

**Matthew:**

What happened?

**Mr. Gilbert:**

Well, Abraham said to Lot, "Let's not have disputes between me and you and between our herders since we are relatives. . . . Let's separate. If you go north, I will go south; and if you go south, I will go north."\*

**Chrissy:**

And what did Lot choose?

**Mr. Gilbert:**

Well, Lot saw the entire Jordan Valley. It was well irrigated. So Lot chose for himself the entire Jordan Valley. Lot set out east.

**Matthew:**

And what happened to Abraham?

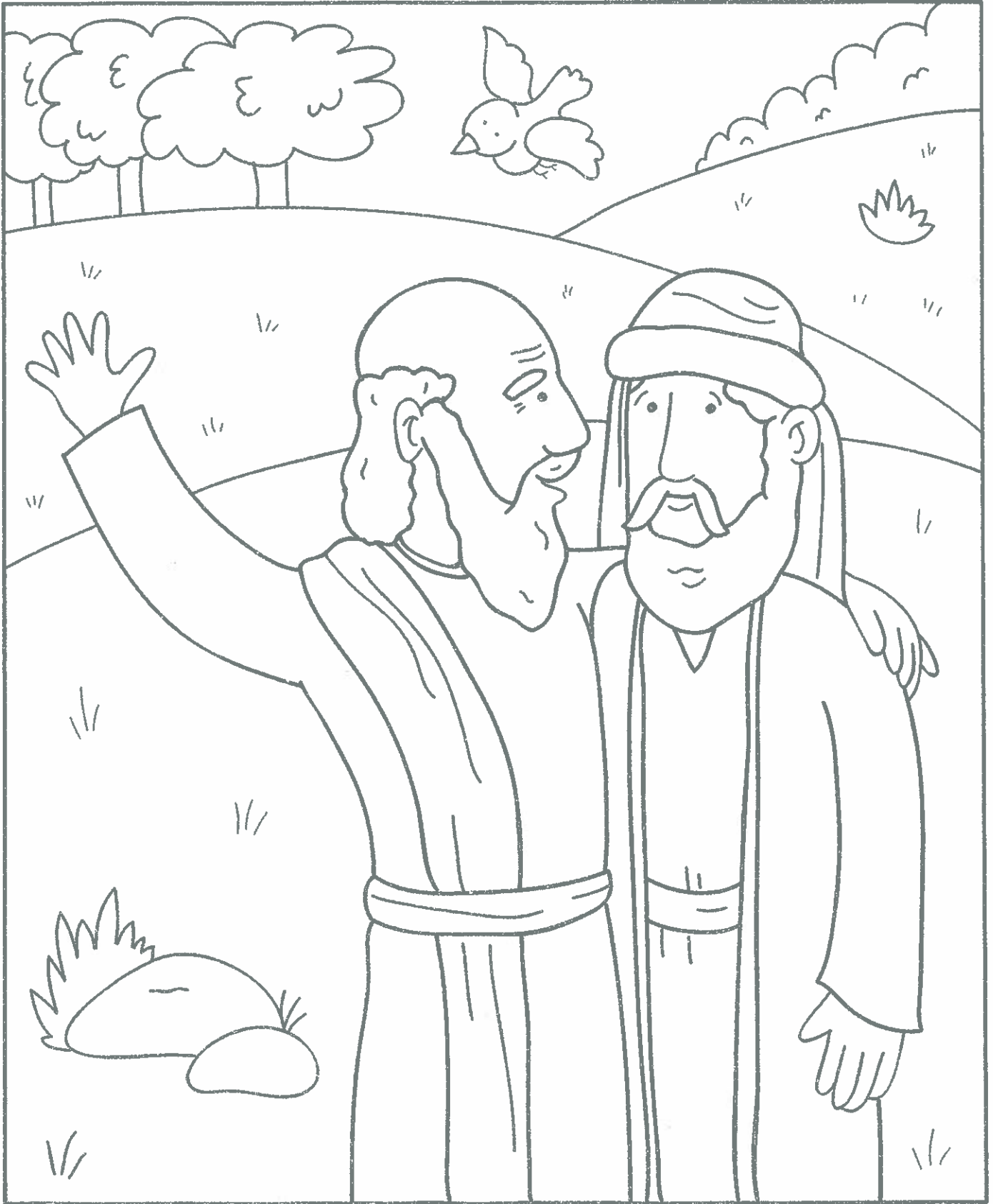
**Mr. Gilbert:**

Abraham settled in the land of Canaan, which came to be known as the Promised Land. Abraham ended up where God wanted him to be, and he prospered. So you see, letting someone choose first doesn't always mean they will choose what you want. And if they do, maybe you'll end up with something just as good or better.

**Chrissy:**

I'm sorry I was selfish about the cupcakes. Please take whichever cupcake you want.

\*Genesis 13:8-9



# Letter Clues

Use the clues to fill in the blanks below to discover the Bible verse.  
You will need some extra paper.

**Clue 1:** The letters *F, J, Q, V, X,* and *Z* are not used at all.

**Clue 2:** The letters *G, K, M, N,* and *U* are used 1 time.

**Clue 3:** The letters *B, I, R, T, W,* and *Y* are used 2 times.

**Clue 4:** The letters *D* and *S* are used 3 times.

**Clue 5:** The letters *C* and *O* are used 4 times.

**Clue 6:** The letters *P* and *H* used 5 times.

**Clue 7:** The letters *A* and *L* are used 6 times while the letter *E* is used thirteen times.

**Clue 8:** Words 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 11 all end in the letter *E*.

**Clue 9:** *H* is the first letter in word 1 and the second letter in words 3, 9, and 14.

**Clue 10:** The letter *P* is used as the third and fourth letters of Word 1. Words 4 and 7 begin with *P*. *P* is also the fourth letter of word 4.

**Clue 11:** Words 12 and 14 begin with *C*. Word 14 ends in *N*.

**Clue 12:** *E* is the second letter of Words 4 and 7. Words 1 and 9 end in the letter *Y*.

**Clue 13:** *W* is the first letter for words 5 and 10. There are 2 *L*'s in word 10.

**Clue 14:** Words 3 and 9 begin with *T*. Word 13 begins with *G*, while word 6 begins with *M*.

**Clue 15:** The letter *K* is the third letter in word 6, while the third letter of word 7 is *A*.

**Clue 16:** The letter *I* is the second letter of word 10 and the third letter of word 14. The letters *L, D,* and *R* appear in this order in word 14.

**Clue 17:** The Letter *S* comes right before the *E* in words 3 and 8. *S* is the last letter of word 13.

**Clue 18:** *B* is the first letter of words 8 and 11. There are two *L*'s right together in word 12. There is an *A* before 1 of the *L*'s and an *E* after the *L*'s in word 12. Word 12 ends in the letter *D*.

**Clue 19:** The letters *C, A,* and *U* appear in their order in word 8. *O* is the last letter in word 5.

**Clue 20:** There is an *A* in words 1, 2, and 6. The second letter of word 2 is *R*.

You should be able to fill in the rest of the letters without clues. Or check Matthew 5:9 in your Bible.

1	2	3	
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	

**Hint:** Write down the alphabet, and then write each letter of the alphabet the number of times the clues tell you to. Mark off any letters that are not used. Mark letters off as they are used.

# Ten Ways to Be a Peacemaker



1. When angry, count to ten.

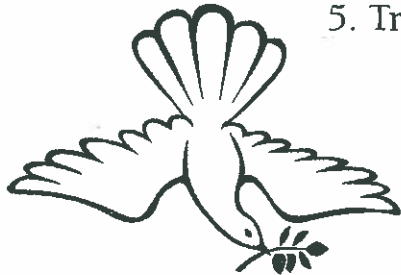


2. Don't make fun of others.

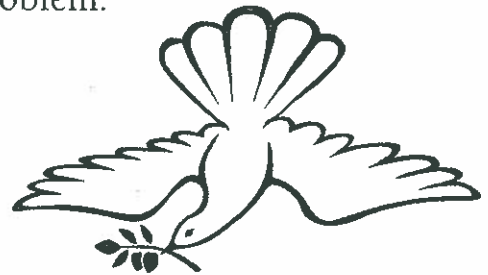
3. Do not use terms such as *not fair*, *should*, *always*, and *never*.

4. Use positive words.

5. Try to think of another way to solve the problem.



6. Think, "What would Jesus do?"



7. Apologize when you have done something wrong.

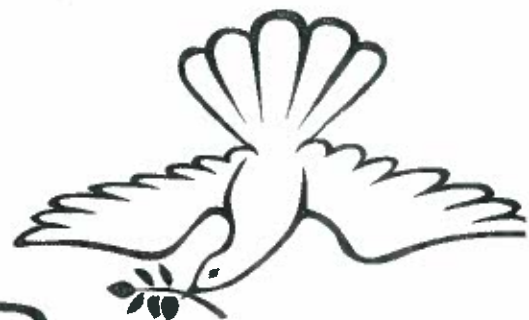
8. Forgive when someone apologizes to you.

9. Treat people with respect, and expect others to treat you with respect.

10. Always follow the Golden Rule:

You should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you.

(Matthew 7:12)



## Make a Pinwheel

What you will need: pattern from Activity 10f, new pencil with eraser, straight pin with ball top, scissors

**Step 1:** Cut out the pinwheel, and cut along the diagonal lines toward the center.

**Step 2:** Use the straight pin to punch a hole in the center and at the designated points.

**Step 3:** Curl each point, in turn, toward the center, and poke the pin through the holes.

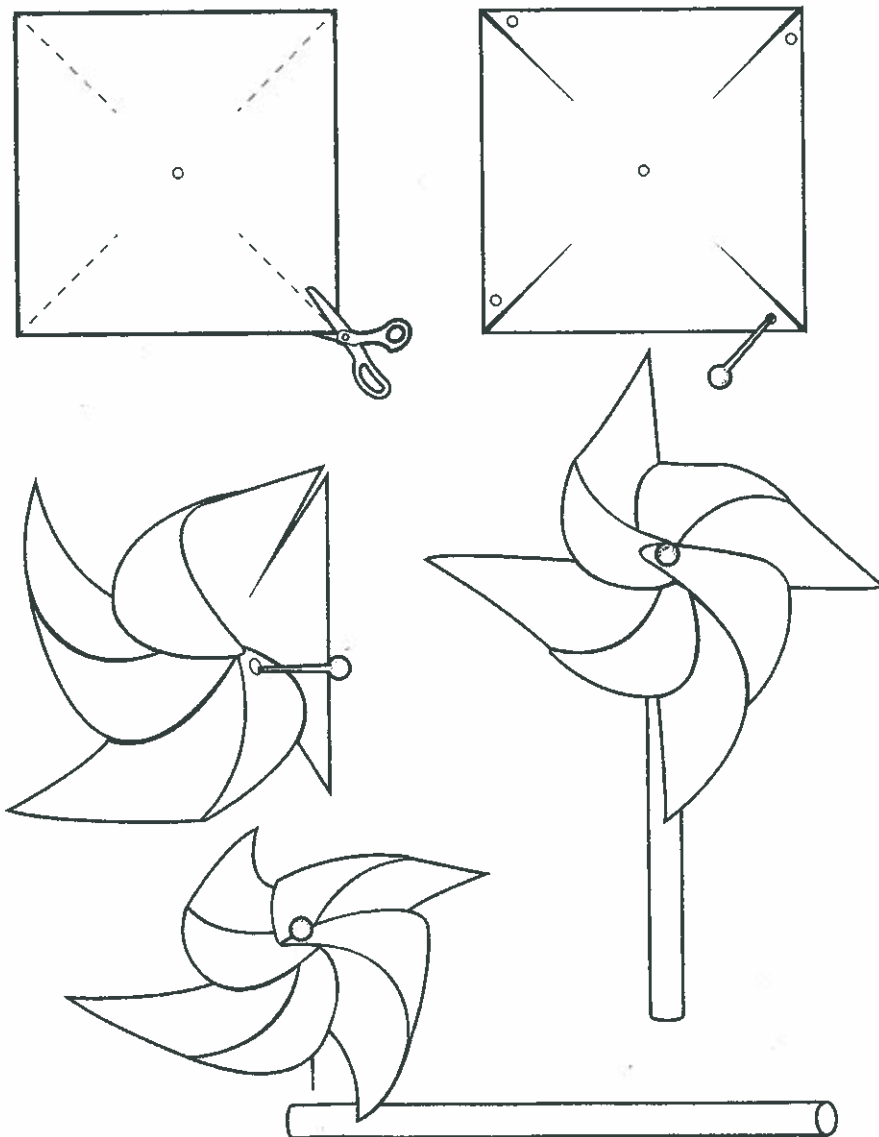
**TIP:** Do not fold.

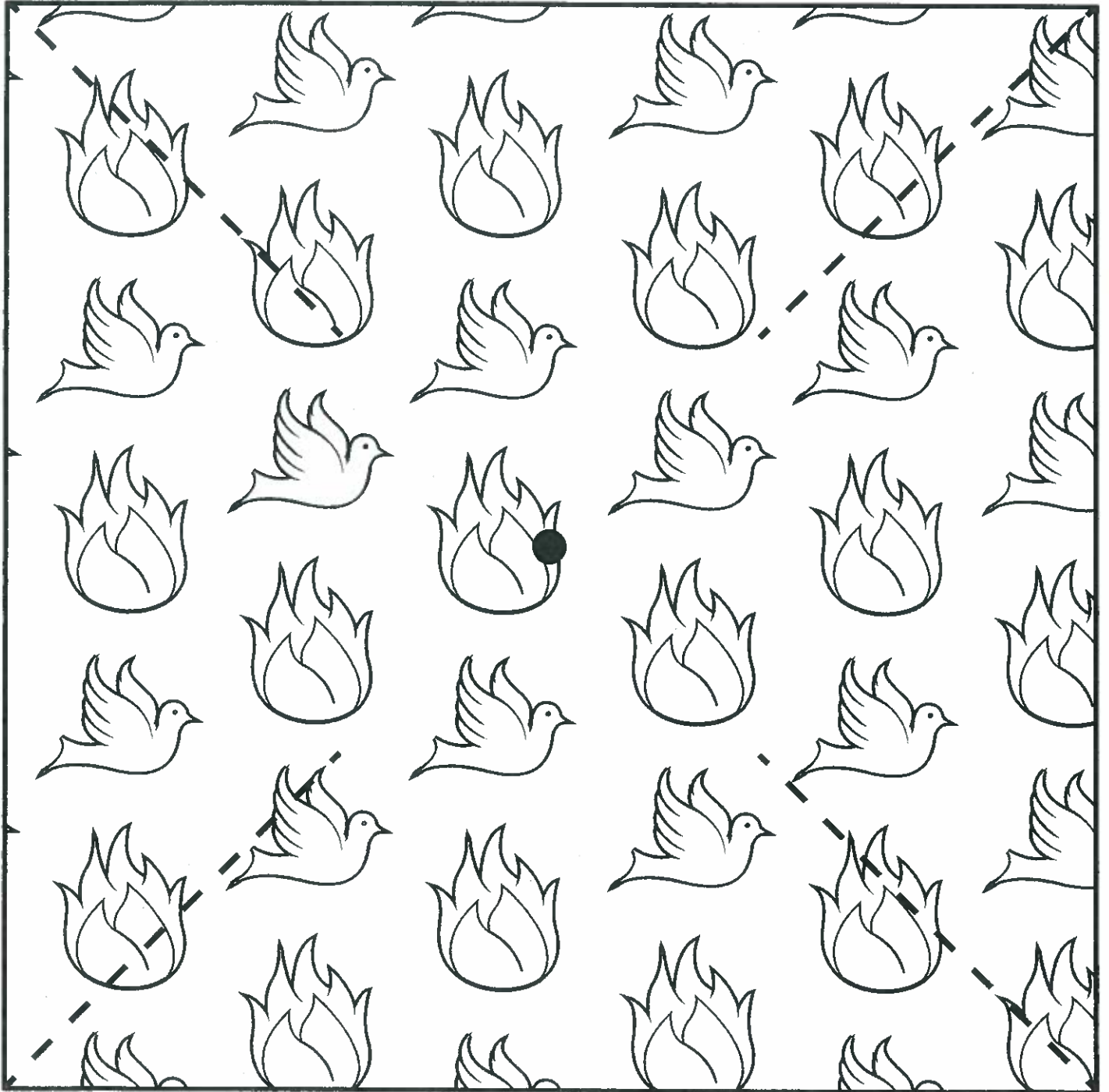
**Step 4:** Push the pin through the center hole of the pinwheel.

**Step 5:** Push the tip of the pin into the side of the eraser.

**TIP:** It is safer and the pencil goes in much easier if you lay the pencil on a flat surface with one hand.

If your pinwheel does not spin easily, remove the pin from the pencil and insert it at a slightly upward angle.









## Did You Know?

Pinwheels are fun. They spin around in the wind. Pinwheels have long been used as toys, but now they are also being used as symbols of peace. September 21 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Day of Peace.

Pinwheels for Peace began as an art project in 2005 in Coconut Creek, Florida. This project was used as a way for students to express their feelings about the world and their lives. This project grew into an expression of the desire for peace in our world. The first Pinwheels for Peace were set up in 2005. By 2013, four million pinwheels had been planted.

The pinwheels are set up in fields and other areas where the wind can whirl the symbols of peace. Pinwheels for Peace has spread to many places throughout the world. Pinwheels of all shapes, sizes, colors, and with many decorations are set up.





