

Drop It

Virtue: Peace—proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.

Memory Verse: “So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” Romans 14:19 NLV

Bible Story: Drop It (a principle of peace) • *Proverbs 17:14*

Bottom Line: The best way to stop a fight is never to start one.

Plug In: Focus the Energy (Small Groups, 10-15 minutes)

FOR LEADERS ONLY

Basically, a virtue is something God does in us to change the world around us. As you read the next paragraph, you'll notice some numbers. Here's what they refer to: (1) the virtue definition. (2) The fact that God created that virtue and exemplifies it. (3) God instills that virtue in us as He shapes us to become more like Him. (4) God uses that virtue in us to influence and impact our families, friends, and neighbors. As others notice the virtue being lived out in our lives, we have more opportunities to tell them about God. As they come to trust God, they'll influence others as well. See the cycle?

The book of Proverbs says, “Starting to argue is like making a crack in a dam” (Proverbs 17:14a, NIV). Before long, what seems like a harmless little crack can develop into a full-blown flood. Relationships are destroyed by arguments of who did what to whom and when and why. Some people have arguments that last for years without any recollection of how the fight began in the first place. Isn't there a better alternative? (1) Peace is proving that you care more about others than winning an argument. (2) We serve a God of peace. A God who wanted so badly to make things right with us that He sent His only Son to pay the price we owed. (3) Through the Word of God, we have learned that He wants us to make peace with others, oftentimes against our very nature. But peace is that important. (4) When we stand up and fight for peace in a world where getting even is the standard, we'll let others see a glimpse of God's amazing mercy and grace through our example.

GET READY

Do the following:

- Gather the leaders together to pray before the kids arrive. Pray that each child would listen and learn the Bible truths presented during today's session. If any kids arrive before or during the prayer, invite them to participate with the leaders.

Early Arriver Idea

SUPPLIES: photos of dams

Ask the early arrivers if they know what dams are. What do dams usually stop? What happens if there's a hole in the dam? Show kids the pictures from the Internet to give them a better understanding of the concept of a dam. Invite the kids to put their offerings in the offering container.

Partner Games

SUPPLIES: none

Lead the kids to play several partner games. Switch partners if time allows. Here are some ideas: [\(Game List continues onto next page\)](#)

- **Staring Contest**—Partners stare into each other's eyes. The partner who goes the longest without blinking is the winner.
- **Fingers Up**—Each partner faces the other with their hands behind them. On the signal to begin, each person raises one hand with anywhere from zero to all five fingers clearly extended. The first person to count the total number of fingers on both raised hands and call out that answer correctly wins the point. After doing this several times, try having each person raise both hands. The first person to call out the correct number of fingers up on all four hands gets a point.
- **Hand Slap**—One partner holds out his hands face up and the other partner places his hands palms down on top of them. The player whose hands are on top must maintain contact until his partner moves his hands. The object for the player whose hands are on the bottom is to slap the tops of the hands of his partner. The object for the top player is to withdraw his hands before he gets slapped, making his partner miss. Players switch roles if the bottom player misses. Another variation is that the players switch after three attempts.
- **Toe Fencing**—The partners face each other, holding the other person's wrists. The object is to gently tap one of your partner's feet with one of your feet. At the same time, you are trying to avoid your partner tapping your foot.
- **Thumb Wrestling**—Partners bend the fingers of their right hands and lock them together with thumbs pointing up. Partners tap thumbs twice, and on the third tap, attempt to catch and force the partner's thumb down to his hand.
- **Off Balance**—The pairs stand facing each other, an arm's length apart. Each person places his feet shoulder length apart and holds his palms up toward the other player. The goal is to make the other person lose his balance and take a step. You do this by striking the palms of your partner.

WRAP UP

SMALL GROUP LEADER: "Was that fun? How did you feel when you lost a game?
[Transition] When we were playing the games, did you notice if you wanted to be aggressive and be the winner? Sometimes we can get too aggressive, and that can lead to fighting. Let's go to large group and hear about the best way to stop a fight."

Lead your group to the large group area for worship and videos.

Power Up: Engage the Heart (Large Group, 20-25 minutes)

Drop It

Virtue: Peace—proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.

Memory Verse: “So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.”

Romans 14:19 NLV

Bible Story: Drop It (a principle of peace) • *Proverbs 17:14*

Bottom Line: The best way to stop a fight is never to start one.

Power Up: Engage the Heart (Large Group, 20-25 minutes)

Power Up: (Large Group, 25-30 minutes)

Opening Announcements (Worship Team – 2 minutes)

Worship Time (10 – 12 minutes)

Video Lesson –Drop It (10 minutes)

Worship leader talks about dams then shows clip of the dam breaking - (5 minutes)

Prayer (2 minutes) - Worship Leader

Pray

Worship Leader: “Dear God, we know that it isn’t easy to have peace. But You’ve shown us that caring about others is way more important than winning silly arguments. Whenever something happens that makes us mad, especially if it’s truly unimportant and silly, help us to just drop it. Help us to remember to ask You for help. Help us to make peace instead of starting fights. We love You and thank You. Amen.”

Catch On: Make the Connection (Small Groups, 25-30 minutes)

Drop It

Virtue: Peace—proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.

Memory Verse: “So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.”

Romans 14:19 NLV

Bible Story: Drop It (a principle of peace) • *Proverbs 17:14*

Bottom Line: The best way to stop a fight is never to start one.

(Continued on next page)

*** 1. Straw and Beans Race (a classroom-wide application activity / great for boys)**

SUPPLIES: 4 paper plates, 6 life saver candies and 1 small “stir” straw for each kid

Divide the room into two teams (boys vs. girls). Line the teams up and place one paper plate at the beginning and end of each team’s line. Place 6 life savers on the plates at the beginning of both lines. Give each kid a “stir” straw.

The players must move the life saver onto their straw and pass it to the next person’s straw, all the way down the line. If any candy is dropped, it has to be taken back to the plate at the beginning of the line. Repeat this until all six life savers have been passed down the line and dropped on the plate at the end of the line. The first team to get all six candies on the plate at the end of their line, using only their straws, wins!

The more candy dropped, the more frustrating—and therefore less peaceful—this game could be. Encourage kids to cheer each other on. Leaders can set the example of encouraging the teams and building them up with positive statements such as, “Way to go,” “You’ll get it next time,” etc.

LEADER: “When we work with others to accomplish a goal, it could go any number of ways. Regardless of the outcome in any situation, win or lose, we need to practice being at peace with other people. We may be tempted to fight or argue with another person because something wasn’t fair, or someone else got something that we wanted, or someone didn’t do something the exact way we wanted them to—like in a game. However, **[Impress] the best way to stop a fight is never to start one, [Apply] especially over something small and relatively unimportant, like a game! It’s more important to be at peace with the people around us than to get what we want.** Sometimes the way to keep peace with another person is just to drop it. If you think an argument is about to happen, especially over something that’s not all that important, just drop it! Peace is proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.”

2. Peaceful Living (memory verse activity)

SUPPLIES: Bibles

Look up and read this month’s memory verse with the kids. **Memory Verse:** “So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” Romans 14:19 NLV
Focus on the phrase “do all we can.”

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Hold up a Bible and point to the word *Romans* at the top of the page as you say “Romans” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 14 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 14 for the little 19 (they might have to turn to the next page); this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud.

Finding verses with 1st-3rd graders: Guide the kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find *Romans* in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by guiding them to sound out “Ro,” leading them to figure out that “Romans” starts with an R. When the kids find *Romans*, lead them to look at the page

number beside the word. Explain that this number tells them on what page they can find Romans. Help the kids find the page. When they find Romans, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 14. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 19 in chapter 14. (They might have to turn to the next page.) Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud.

Teach older kids a shortcut to the verse: Prompt kids to find the middle of their Bibles, then turn to the right by halves until they find Romans. Tell them that Psalms and Proverbs are in the middle of the Bible. Opening to the right by half again will put them somewhere in the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. After the Gospels come Acts and Romans.

LEADER: “Is doing all we can a ‘sometimes’ thing or an ‘all the time’ thing? (*All the time.*) **[Apply]** God wants us to live peacefully every day. One way to make peace is not to start arguments. Instead of starting arguments, God wants us to encourage others and build them UP. If we’re always fighting and getting mad, we’re tearing DOWN those relationships. It’s easier to tear down than to build up. **[Apply]** It’s easier to go ahead and fight than it is to stop an argument before it starts. When someone borrows your favorite pencil and then uses the whole thing up, you might get really annoyed at that friend. But sometimes it’s better just to drop it, to not start an argument over it. **[Impress]** The best way to stop a fight is never to start one.”

Optional Club56 Discussion Questions

If you lead Club56, consider asking these discussion questions:

- How do your family and friends know when you are mad and about to lose control?
- In your own life, where do you need to DROP IT and let God handle the consequences of someone who has hurt you?
- When someone’s actions or words hurt you and you become angry, how do you keep from going too far in your reactions? Where do you draw the line? Do you yell and say everything that’s on your mind but draw the line at fighting? Do you discuss but draw the line at yelling?

3. Guided Silent Prayer (*pray*)

SUPPLIES: none

LEADER: “We have talked this morning about peace and the ability to know that, when you are in certain arguments or situations, the best course of action is to DROP IT. Remember, **[Impress]** the best way to stop a fight is never to start one. But that can be really difficult. I have found one thing that really helps me be able to drop it is talking to God about it.”

[Personalize] Share a time in your life when praying about a situation helped you avoid a fight or make peace with someone.

LEADER: **[Apply]** “Let’s pray that we can live out what we have been talking about this morning with our family, friends, and neighbors.”

Have the kids sit in a circle and lead the group in a silent guided prayer. Explain that you will say who to pray for and an example of a prayer aloud and the kids should silently pray in their own words.

- Pray for the person on your left. **“Dear God, help (the person on my left) to do all he can to live in peace with his family, his friends, his neighbors, and strangers.”**
- Pray for the person on your right. **“Please help (the person on my right) encourage others with her words and actions. Help her build others up and avoid tearing others down.”**
- Pray for yourself. **“Dear God, help me to avoid starting fights or arguments, especially about truly small or unimportant things. Help me to avoid them even with the people who really bother me. Thank You for what I have learned about peace this morning. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”**

WRAP UP

Bring together all the groups in your classroom so the Leader can conclude the session with a review. Be prepared to distribute this week’s GodTime and Fridge Door cards.

LEADER: “It’s not always easy to live in peace with the people around us. But it is something that God has told us to do. *[Apply]* **So, how hard will you work at fixing whatever might be wrong between you and someone else? What are you willing to do or give to remain in peace with the people in your life? Sometimes you just have to drop it! Sometimes *[Impress]* the best way to stop a fight is never to start one.** Sometimes it takes more strength to walk away than it does to stay and argue. If you find yourself in a situation where the only thing to do is to argue about something, I hope you’ll stop and remember what you learned today, that living in peace is proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.”

Tip: As you greet parents, hand out & explain how to use the Fridge Door (if you haven’t already) and GodTime cards, particularly if they’re new to your church:

- *Fridge Door: Point out the kid’s question and the parent’s question and the fact that it gives parents something specific to ask their kids and talk about today.*
- *GodTime: Encourage parents to help their children have some “God time” this week. There are four different devotions on the GodTime card. Each devotion is designed to be done on a different day. Bedtime can be a good time for devotions. Ease any guilt parents may feel (tell them doing one devotion a week is better than none!) or fears that they can’t lead their child to spend time with God (following GodTime cards is easy!): (1) Guide your child to find and read the Bible verse(s) in a Bible. Use the table of contents to teach your child how to find verses in the Bible. (2) Guide your child to read the devotion paragraph aloud, assisting with unfamiliar words as necessary. (3) Guide your child to read and do the activity. (4) Pray a simple, short prayer aloud with your child, using the last sentence on the card as a guide. Note that this prayer suggestion always begins with T, A, L, K: thank God for something; ask God about something; look or listen for God to do something; or know that God will do something.*