

YEAR A | QUARTER 4

6

In Pursuit of Peace

Grace
We extend God's grace to others.

POWER TEXT

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:18).

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Samuel 19
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 72, p. 745
- No corresponding chapter in *The Bible Story* series
- Student lesson on page 72 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 7, The Nature of Humanity

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that they can share God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.
- **Feel** at peace knowing that they can reflect God's grace to others.
- **Respond** by sharing God's grace by solving problems peacefully.

POWERPOINT

We reflect God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After Absalom is defeated, the tribes of Israel are confused about where their loyalty should rest (with the now-dead Absalom or with David). So David reconciles them to himself, placing Amasa in charge of his army instead of Joab. Nothing can be done until peace is restored.

This is a lesson about grace.

David's response to life's disapointments provides us with an example of the way we can solve conflicts peacefully and reflect God's grace in our interactions with others. Just as David sought to bring reconciliation and peace to Israel and Judah, we today can seek reconciliation among those in our homes, our churches, and our community of faith.

Teacher Enrichment

In restoring peace in the kingdom after the collapse of Absalom's revolt, David considered both the individuals and the tribes. In this the tribes assumed the greater importance.

The Tribe of Benjamin—"The important thing about Shimei, Ziba and Mephibosheth is that all three belonged to the tribe of Benjamin; and it is noteworthy that Shimei brought with him to welcome David's return to power no fewer than a thousand Benjaminites (verse 17). . . . If David had alienated Benjamin . . . the tribe of Benjamin would well have started a fresh revolt and a successful one, leaving David with only Judah as his realm" (David F. Payne, *The Daily Study Bible [Old Testament], I & II Samuel* [Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1982], p. 251).

"David's abilities in leadership are emphasized by this passage. By shrewd handling of individuals, with a careful eye to wider and to future dimensions, he gave his realm new stability after the near-disaster of Absalom's revolt. . . . It is always right to take a positive attitude and to try to make a fresh start, even if the new will never be so splendid as the old" (*The Daily Study Bible*, p. 251).

What is my typical manner of solving problems? What can I learn from the way David handled this crisis in his life?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. All Torn Up*	Bibles, chairs, "paper person" (p. 146), tape
		B. Friendly Feud	Bibles, prepared question cards, table, game bell, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
		C. Peace Poster	Bibles, poster paper, colored markers
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 67. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, eraser
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, paper, pencils
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Forgiveness Notes*	Bibles, paper, pencils
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ chairs
- ☐ "paper person" (p. 146)
- ☐ tape

All Torn Up

Beforehand, photocopy or draw and cut out enough copies of the "paper person" for each group of five to eight students to have one (see p. 146). Divide the students into groups of five to eight. Tell each group to make a circle of their chairs. Give each group a person cut out of paper. Tell them that they are to go around the circle and, taking turns, tear off a piece while saying something mean to the paper. When everyone has done this at least once, give each group some tape and tell them to go back around the circle, in the opposite direction, and put their pieces back on the paper person while saying something kind about the paper image, thus bringing about reconciliation.

Debriefing

Ask: **How is this experience of saying something nice, to forgive, to reconcile (to restore to friendship and harmony) like or unlike the way we bring peace back to our family or church community when there is conflict? Let's say our power text together, James 3:18:**

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:18).

The principle we learned from our power point is that

We reflect God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ prepared question cards
- ☐ game bell
- ☐ table
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Friendly Feud

The purpose of this activity is to allow a certain amount of complaining and tension to develop in a completely normal setting (a quiz activity over facts from last week's key Bible chapter). Divide the teams slightly unfairly, or ask one team easier questions than the other, or accept approximate answers from one team and only exact answers from the other. In some way facilitate unrest to the level that students are not comfortable. Then, by changing your actions in some way, facilitate reconciliation (restoring friendship and harmony). This could even be done by rewarding everyone evenly. Only you, the leader, know best how to implement and/or adapt this activity for your particular situation.

Preparation: On index cards or slips of paper, write the following questions:

1. What king have we studied about this month? (David)
2. Who was Abishai? (Joab's brother)
3. Who was Joab? (David's commander-in-chief)
4. Ittai was from what group of people? (the Gittites)
5. Where did the battle take place? (in the forest of Ephraim, the woods)
6. Who was defeated? (the army of Israel, Absalom)
7. How was Absalom killed? (While he was caught in a tree Joab killed him.)
8. What had Absalom erected in the King's Valley? (a rock monument to himself)
9. Who ran to tell the king his son was dead? (Ahimaaz and a Cushite)
10. Who was Ahimaaz's father? (Zadok)
11. Where was David sitting and waiting for news? (at the city gate)
12. How did David act when he knew his side had won? (he cried)

Procedure: Divide the class into two teams that sit in rows facing each other. Place a game bell on a table between the two rows. The first player from each team stands with one hand on the table and one hand behind his or her back. Read aloud the question on the first card. The first person to ring the bell may answer the question for 10 points; if the answer is wrong, the other player may answer it, winning five points for their team. If neither contestant gets the answer, put the question at the bottom of the pile to be asked later. Repeat procedure until all players have had several turns. Keep score on a board. Refer to the purpose expressed above.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when** (insert whatever behavior you used that created disharmony)**? What happened to help restore friendship and harmony in our group?**
Say: **Forgiveness and reconciliation are God's gifts of grace. His greatest desire is to restore us into His image.**

Restoring friendship and harmony is called reconciliation. Reconciliation is an important aspect of God's grace and His will for our lives. Be thinking about the concept of reconciliation as we study our Bible lesson. Let's say our power text, James 3:18:

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:18).

As we learned from our power point:

We reflect God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.

(Adapted from *5th & 6th Grade Smart Pages* [Ventura, Calif.: Gospel Light, 1996], p. 61. Used with permission.)

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ poster paper
- ☐ colored markers

Peace Poster

Say: **Create an attractive poster advertising ways in which people in your church community can use forgiveness and reconciliation to bring peace when there is discord and quarreling. Make your main points stand out in some way. When all the posters are finished, we will display them in the hall or lobby for all the church members to see their messages.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What kinds of reconciliation ideas did you show on your posters? Why is forgiveness and reconciliation important in a church community? What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?** (Forgiveness is pardon or mercy extended to someone who has wronged us; reconciliation is to restore a friendship to harmony.)

Say: **Let's find and read our power text, James 3:18. Today we are learning that**

We reflect God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Allow students who experience difficulty with this activity to receive assistance from a partner.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"My Peace" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 94)
"He Is Our Peace" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 109)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students mark with pushpins the location of the story.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **When we consider how forgiving God is for the mistakes that we make, we will no longer find it difficult to give our offerings to Him. In this respect our offerings are a natural response to God's love.** Collect the offering at this time.

Prayer

Open prayer by thanking God for His unlimited forgiveness of our mistakes. Give the students a few moments of silence during which you encourage them to share silently and specifically their petitions for forgiveness in their lives. At the end, pray, reiterating the assurance that God forgives us whenever we ask because He loves us. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ eraser
- ☐ markers/chalk

Introducing the Bible Story

Before the beginning of class, write on a board in large letters such words as *hatred*, *selfishness*, *pride*, *unkindness*, *dishonesty*, *hypocrisy*, etc. Begin the discussion of the Sabbath School lesson by having a volunteer read Psalm 32:1. In this paraphrase, forgiveness is compared to a clean slate. Then, as you erase the words from the board as thoroughly as possible, explain that God's grace and forgiveness removes our sins even more thoroughly than you can remove the words from the board.

Ask: **What does this illustration of God's forgiveness tell us about the kind of forgiveness we should have for people in our community of faith with whom we have been having differences? How would this kind of forgiveness help to restore friendship and harmony and be a powerful demonstration of God's grace? Let's repeat our power text together, James 3:18:**

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:18).

The principle we learned from our power point is that

We reflect God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.

Accommodation for students with special needs

In order to help all learners in your class better to understand the lesson in this activity, you may wish to describe the words you listed on the board and illustrate how forgiveness helps restore relationships with others.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Experiencing the Story

Have the students take turns reading aloud 2 Samuel 19. Then say: **Today you will imagine that you're a reporter for the Jerusalem *Daily* newspaper and will write your observations about the events that happened in our story. King David has just defeated Absalom and has sent a message to Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, to see how he could be reconciled with the elders of Judah.** Ask: **What would your observations be about the quarreling among the people? What did David do to stop the quarreling among the people, reconcile them to himself, and bring peace?**

Debriefing

Ask: **Who would like to share what they wrote? What did David do to stop the quarreling? What difference did it make when he stopped the quarreling? How is this like or unlike (1) an experience you've had? (2) how we're affected by disagreement, fighting, and quarreling? and (3) how we deal with it? How could we allow God's grace to transform us into loving and forgiving people who restore broken relationships and live in harmony with each other?**

Accommodation for students with special needs

Allow students who experience difficulty with writing and spelling to work with a partner who could provide assistance to them.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Write the following assignment on a board for groups of three or four to complete:

You have found yourself in the center of a strong disagreement between two of your closest friends. Because of the aggressive way Carlos plays basketball, he has injured one of Glenn's eyes. Carlos has asked forgiveness, but Glenn refuses even to speak to him. Which of the following scriptural references would help you in trying to persuade Glenn to forgive Carlos?

1. Matthew 6:9-15
2. Matthew 18:21-35
3. Mark 11:22-25
4. Luke 6:37
5. Luke 11:1-4
6. Luke 17:3, 4
7. 2 Corinthians 2:5-8
8. Colossians 3:12-14

After groups have had time to prepare their answers, call on a volunteer from each to present the group's findings. Say: **What did you learn? When would it be all right not to forgive? Why is forgiveness always the right approach to take? How is forgiveness a reflection of God's grace to us? Let's repeat our power text, James 3:18:**

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:18).

The principle we learned from our power point is that

We reflect God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.

Accommodations for students with special needs

Have students with visual impairments sit near the board or prepare for them ahead of time a handout in large font, listing the Bible references and the questions for this activity.

Scenario

Read the following scenario to the students:

You have had an argument with a friend of yours in which you both said some pretty mean and nasty things to each other. Now you're sorry that this happened and want to resolve the problem and mend your friendship.

Debriefing

Ask: **What can you do? How can you bring peace back to your friendship? What do you do if your friend doesn't want to reconcile?**

Let's remember to apply the principle we learned from our power point this week:

We reflect God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Forgiveness Notes

Allow time for students to share with the class if they had the opportunity during the past week to make things right, forgive and reconcile with someone with whom they had a disagreement. Was it easy to forgive someone who had hurt your feelings? Was it difficult? How did your attitude of forgiveness help improve your relationship with the other person? Say: **Think of someone with whom you may have had a disagreement or some situation that caused bad feelings. Write a forgiveness note to that person. Ask for their forgiveness and explain why you want to make things right. If someone has wanted your forgiveness and you've been unwilling to give it, please write a forgiveness note to that person and make things right.**

Debriefing

Ask students to read the following texts aloud: Isaiah 53:5; Ephesians 2:11-17. Ask: **What do we know about God's grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation? Because God is so willing to cover our sins and bring us back to Him, how much more willing should we be to forgive someone and bring harmony in our relationships?**

As the power point reminds us:

We reflect God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Dear God, please give us Your peace. Help us to work together to solve problems. Help us be forgiving toward others' mistakes.**

Thank You for reconciling us to You, undeserving as we are. Thank You for Your love. Amen.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **The psalms features songs of praise. We express our gratitude for God's gift of grace through songs of praise.**

Notes

Student lesson

In Pursuit of Peace

Is there a peacemaker in your family? Someone who steps in when people are having a great debate and things begin to get unpleasant? After Absalom's death King David found himself in a situation in which he had to be the peacemaker, and it wasn't easy.

With the rebellion over, David thought about returning home to his palace in Jerusalem. But there was still plenty to worry about first. The Bible says, "Throughout the tribes of Israel, all the people were arguing among themselves" (2 Samuel 19:9). Some unhappy Israelites still sympathized with the rebels.

How can God bless us if we don't get along? the king mused. *We can't call ourselves followers of God and hate one another.* David paced back and forth in his chambers and prayed.

Then the king had a brilliant but risky idea. "I want to put Amasa [AM-a-sa] in charge of all my soldiers," he announced. David knew that Amasa was a good man at heart. If entrusted with responsibility, he would rise to the occasion and be loyal to his king. Amasa was much too valuable to be put away and shunned.

David was right. Kindness did win the heart of his former enemy, and Amasa gained many supporters for the king.

Finally David decided it was time to move back to Jerusalem. The journey began, and his long caravan soon reached the east shore of the Jordan River. *Who was that person coming across the river? Could it be Shimei [SHIM-ee-i], that troublemaker?* Sure enough, it was Shimei, the one who had cursed the king when he was running from Absalom [AB-sah-lum]. He jumped off his horse, bowed down to the ground, and pleaded, "May my lord not hold me guilty. Do not remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the king put it out of his mind. For I your servant know that I have sinned, but today I have come here as the first from the tribes of Joseph to come down and meet my lord the king."

"Shouldn't Shimei be put to death for this?" asked Abishai, son of Zeruiah [zuh-ROO-yah]. "He cursed the LORD's anointed."

"Should anyone be put to death in Israel today?" asked David in reply. "Don't I know that today I am king over Israel?"

As king, David could have had Shimei executed immediately. Instead he held out his hand to Shimei and said, "You shall not die" (verses 19-23).

Later David resolved a bitter argument between two important people. Ziba [ZY-buh] had accused Mephibosheth [me-FIB-o-sheth] of disloyalty to the king, and as a result he was given his master's inheritance. When David returned to Jerusalem, however, he listened to Mephibosheth's side of the story; he claimed to be innocent and wrongly accused by his servant. The king sought to find a solution to their conflict, and as a result he divided the land equally between them.

David's influence continued to spread throughout the nation, until unity was largely restored. Although he made many mistakes, he also learned to be a peacemaker. He knew that doing one's best to get along with others is an important part of following God and leading His people.

Within the Godhead the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is characterized by unity. The relationship between husband and wife is also built on unity of purpose and action. God's desire for us is to live and work together in unity. This can be accomplished—by the power of God—only when the members of the church relate to each other with Christian love and respect. It is a great blessing to pursue peace with one another and to build harmonious relationships that lead to unity.

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Samuel 19
- *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 72, p. 745
- No corresponding chapter in *The Bible Story* series
- Our Beliefs, nos. 14, 11, 7

POWER TEXT

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:18).

POWER POINT

We reflect God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

Sunday

READ Read 2 Samuel 19:1-8 and this week's lesson, "In Pursuit of Peace."

CREATE Create a picture of sowing and reaping and include this week's power text in the picture, along with the reference.

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you be a peacemaker.

Monday

READ Read 2 Samuel 19:9-30.

THINK Try to remember a victory celebration that was ruined by someone's bad attitude about the victory. How did it make you feel? Was Joab justified in his rebuke of David's response to their victory? Why or why not?

THINK Think of a situation in which you should have reacted more as David did toward Shimei. If this situation still exists, contact the person involved this week and try to solve the problem by being forgiving.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you reconcile your relationships that need healing.

Tuesday

READ Read 2 Samuel 19:31-43.

THINK It had not been unusual for David to deal harshly with his enemies. Why did he react so kindly in this case?

WRITE Explain in your own words why it is not a sign of weakness to forgive others.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you always have a forgiving spirit toward others.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 5:9. What promise do peacemakers have from God?

FIND Look for information on the peacemaking negotiations that are going on between two nations.

THINK How are the issues that those nations or people face similar to those of two teenagers who dislike one another? How are they different?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you develop traits in your character that make you a peacemaker.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 18:21, 22.

THINK Think about the mathematics involved in the verses above (check the margin in NIV). Do you think Jesus meant that if a person has hurt you 70 times seven plus one, you no longer have to forgive them? Explain your answer.

ACT Act out the Bible story at family worship tonight.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you have a forgiving spirit.

Friday

READ Read Jeremiah 33:8.

THINK A clean slate is a familiar way of describing how it feels when you've been forgiven of something. Think of other word images and symbols that help represent what forgiveness means to you.

CREATE Sketch, draw, or paint your own illustration of something that reminds you of the meaning of forgiveness. Place it in your room where it will serve as a reminder of God's forgiveness in your life.

SAY Repeat the power text, James 3:18, by memory.

PRAY Thank God that He forgives you every time you ask Him. Praise Him, for His mercy knows no limit.