

WEEK TWELVE

**O THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE PEACEMAKERS  
—THEY WILL BE CALLED GOD’S CHILDREN**

**BIG IDEA**

People who work to bring peace show they are

TRUE CHILDREN OF GOD

**PREP**

- Cut out some ‘trouble monster’ shapes of paper (about the size of a child’s hand – any shape will do).
- Have a treat, such as an ice block, ready to give to everyone during the story time.

**WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?**

- Pens or pencils.
- The cut-out ‘trouble monster’ shapes.



**INTRO**

- Find the magnet which says “We Follow in the Footsteps of Heroes.” Make sure you attach it to the lid of your Faith Box.

Today’s beatitude is ‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called God’s children.’ Later in the session we are going to read about a hero who was a peace maker in a very important way. He is someone who really tried to live Jesus’ words and make peace with people who had done something terrible to his family.

But first of all we are going to think about our own family...

**If you say someone is a peacemaker what does that mean?  
Who do you think is a peacemaker in our family?**

Sometimes things happen that just stir up trouble and arguments and fights.

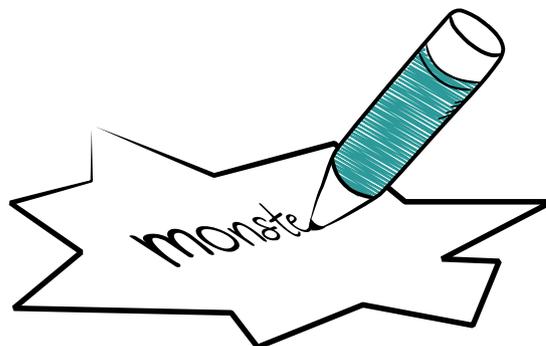
This is what the Bible says about fights and arguments. “A hot tempered person starts fights; a cool tempered person stops them.” **Proverbs 15:18**

God wants us all to be the sort of people who bring peace rather than stir up trouble. But before we talk about this, we are going to play a game.

**GAME**

**Trouble Monster Game**

- Put chairs around the edge of the lounge. Move any coffee tables, lamps etc out of the way so no-one gets hurt.



We are going to imagine that the lounge is a big swamp and in the middle of the swamp is the “Trouble Monster” (an adult).

The Trouble Monster is going to try to catch you. Your job is to be clever and fast to avoid him, and stay out of trouble!

When you are sitting on the seats you are safe; but you have to try to run across the ‘swamp’ and reach the safety of a new seat without the trouble monster catching you. *If the Trouble Monster catches you then you become the Trouble Monster, and the original Trouble Monster swaps places with you and joins in the game.*

## EXPLORE

In the game, you had to be clever and smart and fast to avoid the Trouble Monster.

It is the same with being a peacemaker. To avoid fights and arguments you have to be clever and wise, and often you need to think quickly and clearly.

It means you have to think before you react to a situation.

It is only normal to have disagreements with others; but just because we disagree with someone, or they do something that we don’t like, we don’t have to turn it into an argument or a fight.

## OUT OF THE BOX

Let’s think about what causes fights in our family. What things are the ‘Trouble Monsters’? (People are not Trouble Monsters!! Think of the monsters as the things that cause arguments and fights.)

- Give everyone a pencil and a Trouble Monster shape. Brainstorm ideas about ‘trouble monsters’ – what things we do that cause arguments and fights (e.g. when someone calls us a name, or insults us, or uses something that belongs to us.)
- Write them on your monster shape.
- Think about how we can get rid of the ‘trouble monsters’ in our family – so that our home is more peaceful, more joyful, and everyone has fun.
- Now turn the paper over. When we see a trouble monster appearing in our family, what can we do? Write your idea on this side.
- Everyone read out their ideas.
- Share a time at school or work (a parent might share first) when you were able to be a peacemaker.  
**Did you need to have courage?**

WEEK TWELVE

Because we love Jesus, He may ask us to bring peace into hard situations; but remember He will give us the wisdom and love we need. God will be proud of us because we are His children.

READ

- Give everyone an iceblock treat while you read.

This is a story about a man whose father travelled to the jungles of South America to share the gospel with the Waodani tribe...

Steve Saint had the sort of childhood that many boys dream about. He was born in 1951 in Ecuador, a land of dense jungles, full of risk and adventure. His Dad Nate was a missionary pilot and Steve often sat with him in the cockpit, flying over the wide expanses, and thinking about how they could take the Gospel story to the tribespeople far below. Steve's family was part of a community of five missionary families, all eager to make contact with the Waodani tribe; and so you can imagine how very excited they were when, after months of preparation, the big day came. Nate and four companions flew to a tiny landing strip deep in the jungle where the Waodani lived. The missionaries had come to share God's love, but instead the frightened tribesmen speared them to death.

Most families would have packed their bags and taken the next flight to home and safety. But not these missionaries! Steve's Aunt Rachel and her friend Elisabeth Elliot decided that they would go to live amongst the Waodani – the message of God's love and forgiveness was too important to be abandoned.

God was with Rachel and Elisabeth as they built a home amongst the tribe, learned their language, and became their close friends. And



in the next few years many of the Waodani became Christians and followed Jesus' way of peace. Steve looked forward to the summer holidays each year – it meant he could leave Quito and stay with his Aunt Rachel in the tribal village. He learned many things from his Waodani friends - basic survival skills, how to hunt, and how to scramble silently through the bush so no-one could hear him. Steve also learnt to forgive, and when he was 14 he asked two of his father's killers to baptise him.

When his schooling in Quito was over, Steve returned to the United States for university studies. But when he heard the news that his beloved Aunt Rachel had died he travelled to Ecuador to bury her, and to celebrate the 36 years she had faithfully served God and the Waodani. And only a few years later Steve brought his own family to Ecuador to continue the work his father had died for. He taught the tribe many skills – how to build simple aircraft, how to make medical instruments, harness solar power, practice basic dentistry, and adapt to a world of change.

The stories of those five missionaries who died, and the peacemakers who stayed behind, will never die. Through the years this story has been shared with people all over the world and many have given their lives to follow Jesus, and be peacemakers too. ))

« AN EYE FOR AN EYE ONLY ENDS UP MAKING THE WHOLE WORLD BLIND. »

- MAHATMA GANDHI -

## FAMILY TALK TIME

It must have been difficult for Steve Saint to not blame the Waodani for his Dad's death, and to not feel angry and bitter towards them.

- **What do you think made Steve's family go back to the jungle and live with the tribe?**

Jesus teaches us to love our enemies. We are not to make trouble for others by gossiping or fighting or being mean.

Do you remember that the beatitude says "Blessed are the peacemakers - they will be called God's children." God intends that one of the ways other people will know that we are God's children (that we are Christians), is that we bring peace to troubled situations. When we are peacemakers we shine God's light and hope to others.

- Everyone make the word 'peace' in sign language. Put your thumb and your index finger together, on both hands. Then put your hands together, and slowly move them apart. Enjoy learning how to do it.

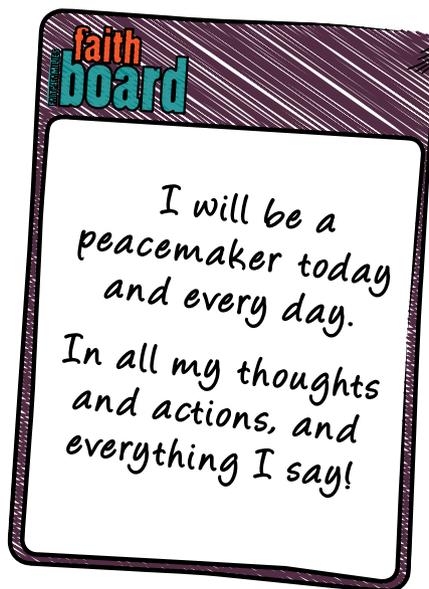
## PRAY

"Dear God please help me to be a peacemaker in our family, and at school/kindy/work.

Please help me when I am upset to use words instead of letting trouble win. Amen."

## LIVE

Give out awards this week for those people who are able to 'stay calm' and 'float' over the top of 'Trouble Monsters' without reacting.



## OTHER IDEAS

- Make a chart 'Our Peace-making Plan' using your ideas. Put it on the fridge or the wall as a reminder during the week. Another chart could be "Trouble Monsters We Are Not Letting In Our House."
- Over the dinner table, create a pretend recipe for cooking up peace - what ingredients would you include and how would you mix them together?
- This week take time to go somewhere you can throw stones into water e.g. a river, lake or sea. As you take turns at throwing a stone and making ripples in the water, think of something you can do that will make ripples of peace extend around you.
- Put all the 'treasures' from week five's appendix in a jar and place them in the middle of the table. Take turns at picking one out, and remembering the first part of the blessing.

**CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...**

