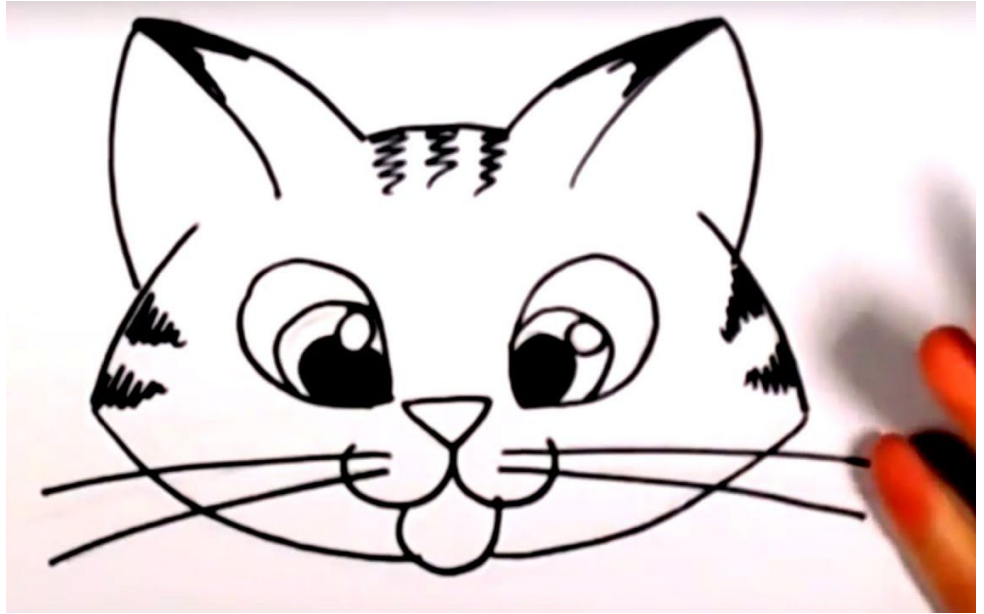


Gizmo the Friendly Kitty

PURSUING AND KEEPING PEACE

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(with help from
Ministry-to-Children.com)



What is peace?

What does it look like to not have peace?

Does God want us to have peace?

The word "PEACE" is defined as a time without disturbance. A time of tranquility. A time with no war or when war has ended.

Being cooped up with the same people in our homes can sometimes feel like the opposite of peace. It is important to remember that everyone is feeling stressed out during this time no matter what age they are. So how can your home be a place of peace in this stressful time?

As a family, work through the following scenarios:

Scenario: "You are waiting in line to go up the ladder and go down the slide on the playground. Another kid runs over and cuts in front of you in line. You push them out of your way before climbing the ladder. After all, it was your spot in line wasn't it? What do you do?"

1. Each person should share what they would do to make peace in this situation.
2. "Take out your Bibles and turn to Romans 12:18-19." Read aloud these two verses.
3. "What does the Bible tell us we should do?" Take input from everyone.
4. "The Bible tells us we are to do whatever we can to be at peace with others. Should we ever take matters into our own hands if someone has done something wrong to us?"
5. "No, God tells us to never seek revenge because He will take care of it for us. He calls us to do our part to make peace with others no matter who started it. To make peace in this situation, we should go back to the child we pushed, apologize, and seek their forgiveness without mentioning the fact that they cut in line first."

Scenario: "There is a child in your neighborhood who often calls you names. You do not know why they call you these names, but you do know that it hurts your feelings. You think maybe this other child could be jealous of you. What do you do?"

1. Have everyone share what they would do to make peace in this situation.
2. "Open your Bibles now to Hebrews 12:14." Read aloud the verses.
3. "This verse tells us to strive for or pursue peace. We are to try to be at peace with all people. You are not at peace with another child if they are calling you names. The Bible tells us to seek to make peace with this child and find out why they are calling you names. By seeking to make peace you are showing the other child the peace you have in your heart because you do not want the other child to have a hardened heart toward you."

Why should we pursue peace?
Why does God tell us in the Bible to pursue peace? Take a look at Matthew 5:9.

Matthew 5:9 International Children's Bible (ICB)

Those who work to bring peace are happy. God will call them his sons/daughters.

We are called to be peacemakers because we are sons and daughters of God. If we believe in Jesus Christ, then we are at peace with God. No longer does our sin keep us from being at peace with God the Father. What a blessing that is! Having peace with God is the greatest gift we could ever receive! As a believer in Jesus, because we are now at peace with God, we will want to share that peace with others through making peace with them. By being peacemakers we will be sharing the peace we have in our hearts with those around us.



Our memory verse for this week is:

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

The words "as far as it depends on you" means that you cannot control what other people do. You can only be responsible for your behavior, and God calls you to do whatever you can to be a peacemaker!

DIFFERENCE is NOT

The Absence of
Conflict, BUT the

Presence
of
COPES
WITH IT