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**What if I'm the Only One Willing to Make Peace?**

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**Supplies**

- Bibles
- "Peacemakers" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- pens

**Have a Thumb War**

Say: **Have you ever had a thumb war?** Have kids find partners, and show them how to link their fingers and then move their thumbs, trying to pin the other person's thumb down. To begin a match, kids will say, "One, two, three, four, I declare a thumb war" and can begin trying to pin their partners thumbs immediately after the word "war." Have partners play a few rounds.

Ask: • **Who won?**

• **How did you feel while you were thumb wrestling?**

• **How do you feel when you're in the middle of a real-life fight or argument?**

Say: **In a thumb war, you and your opponent have the same goal: You both want to pin the other person's thumb. Real-life arguments are similar: You both want to be right! But making peace means letting go of the need to be right and instead ending the fight. It'd be like a thumb war where one person just stopped fighting the war.**

Have partners do another round of thumb wars, but this time, the older partner in each pair won't try to pin the other person's thumb.

Ask: • **What happened when you stopped trying to pin the other person's thumb?**

Say: **Making peace in life isn't always easy. Sometimes *you* try to stop the fight, but the other person is still fighting! So what if you're the only one willing to make peace? Let's dig in to that.**

**Dig Deeper**

Say: **There are a few verses in a row that give a lot of great ideas for how to make peace. Let's dig in to those verses and see what we can learn.**

Distribute a "Peacemakers" handout and a pen to each child.

Have an adult or teen helper read Romans 12:17 from the handout.

Ask: • **Think of a real-life feud you've had. How could you have applied this verse to that situation?**

Have kids write or draw an example of how to make peace using the advice in verse 17.

Repeat the same process for verses 18, 19, 20, and 21.

When you've gone through all the verses, have kids share some of the advice they learned that they wrote or drew on their handout.

Say: **Making peace is hard! These verses give us good ideas for how to make peace, but that doesn't make it easy. That's why it's good news that peace is a fruit of the Spirit. It means we don't have to try to make peace all in our own strength! We can turn to God for help when we need to make peace. Let's do that now.**

Have kids fold their hands to pray but wiggle their thumbs like a thumb war as you pray: **God, thank you that you are the ultimate peacemaker. Help us when we face situations where we want to fight. Give us ways to make peace instead, even if the other person doesn't want to make peace. Help us know when to just walk away like Isaac did. In Jesus' name, amen.**