

## **#6 Seek Peace as Lifestyle**

**Narrator:** Today's lesson is called "Seek Peace as a Lifestyle" which means we should try to do all the things we've talked about on the Peace Tree...every day. If we're not used to doing them, we'll have to "practice" doing them. So I'm going to call today's lesson "Seek Peace by Practicing Peace."

### **Skit**

Peace tree is sitting up on stage for today's skit...a bit to the left of ...  
2 chairs sitting in center of stage with a small table in between them  
newspapers and phone are on the table

### **Cast**

**Main Character**.....dressed normally (no name in skit(doesn't deserve a name), but I played this part...so this character's lines will be under the name "Janet"...easier than writing "main character" each time.)

**Friend:** again not named in script, dressed normally...will be called "Linda" in script

**Penelope Peace:** in our skit this was a woman wearing little colourful wings, white skirt and a pink sparkly top, a garland halo, carrying a large nerf hammer in one hand and a sparkly wand in the other hand. She is meant to look funny...and a little goofy.

**Cindy:** woman dressed normally

**Mr. Carpenter:** Man wearing work clothes and a tool belt, has a bill in his pocket

**Tabatha:** wearing a housecoat and slippers, looking sad and ill

**Sign Holder:** will have the following 7 signs: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 1 Hour Later, The End  
Will carry the signs across the front of church at the appropriate times

**Janet:** (comes on stage from left, holding a purse, talking to Linda) That was a good service, wasn't it?

**Linda:** It sure was.

**Janet:** I'm really enjoying this "Seeking Peace" series that we've been learning about for the past 6 weeks.

**Linda:** Yeah, me too.

**Janet:** And I really like all those skits. Some of them have been really funny, haven't they? (this was funny in our church, because everyone knew I'd written them )

**Linda:** Yeah, but they've definitely given me things to think about...and "practice" in my own life.

**Janet:** Really?? I've enjoyed them, but I think I already do them all. I guess you could call me a "practicing peacemaker!"(has nose slightly in air & arms out to her sides, as she says this, quite proud of herself) (looks around suddenly, as if she was just hit)

**Linda:** What's wrong?

**Janet:** Did you feel that? It kind of felt like someone just pushed me, or hit me with something. (looking around behind her)

**Linda:** No, I didn't feel anything.

**Janet:** Oh well! It must have been the wind,... I guess. (looks behind her again) See you next week!

**Linda:** Bye (walks off the stage and sits down in pews)

**Janet:** (walks toward chair on left....puts purse in front of table ...sits down) Now that I'm home from church, I think I'll read the newspapers a bit, then I'll make some lunch. (starts reading newspapers.)

**Penelope:** ( walks in, wearing wings, a halo, carrying a wand in one hand, hammer in other hand ...stands and looks at Janet for a few minutes with hands on her hips...then coughs to get Janet's attention)

**Janet:**(jumps up) What!! Who are you??

**Penelope:** I am Penelope Peace, your peace angel.

**Janet:** My what???

**Penelope:** You've heard about guardian angels, haven't you?

**Janet:** Yeah...

**Penelope:** Well, I'm your "Peace Angel".

**Janet:** What do you want? And who sent you?

**Penelope:** I'm here to help you "seek peace by practicing peace". And who do you think sent me??( Penelope slowly looks up...then Janet slowly looks up)

**Janet:**(while looking up) ohhhhhh....

**Penelope:** I heard you tell your friend this morning that you were a "practicing peacemaker." That's when I hit you with my hammer. ( takes hammer from behind her back & shows Janet)

**Janet:** So that's what I felt. (holds head) Why did you do that?

**Penelope:** Because you lied...you are not a peacemaker. (Janet looks aghast)

I am going to follow you around this week. ..and every time you practice peace, I'll touch you with my peaceful pointer, like this. (taps Janet's shoulder with pointer)

**Janet:** Oh wow...I just got a wonderful, warm, peaceful feeling right here in my heart. I like that!! ( has hand on heart)

**Penelope:** And every time you don't practice peace, when you should have, I'll hit you with my hateful hammer, like this. ( hits Janet)

**Janet:** (covers head with arms)Stop doing that! I hate that!

**Penelope:** I will be with you all week, until Friday. This is important: remember this: you are the only one who can see me...no one else can see me.

**Janet:** (irritated ) Fine. Whatever! (walk off, Penelope following Janet)

===Sign===MONDAY=====

**Janet:** (walks on stage, followed by Penelope) I can't believe Julie, my neighbour hasn't returned that flashlight she borrowed from me. I need it right now!

**Penelope:** (points at "Seek Peace with your neighbours" sign on Peace tree).

**Janet:** I'm going to call her right now, and tell her off. She never returns anything! (picks up phone)

**Penelope:** (shakes her head...then hits Janet with hammer)

**Janet:**(holding head) OK, OK. I'll be nice(dials #) (speaks very super sweetly and slowly) Hello, Julie. (sticks tongue out at Penelope) I'm calling about my flashlight.(pause) Oh , you did. Thank-you so much. (looks at angel again )You are a wonderful neighbour, Julie. (thinks for a bit) God Bless you.

**Penelope :**(smiles..points at " Neighbour" and"Blessing"signs. (taps Janet with pointer).

**Janet:** (holds heart) Oh, I love that feeling. (sheepishly)By the way,Julie said she put the flashlight back in my shed, last week already...together with a package of new batteries for it...so I'm very glad that I didn't yell at her.

(both walk off stage, Penelope following Janet)

=====SIGN=====TUESDAY=====

**Janet:** (walks on stage from left....followed by Penelope)

**Cindy:** (walks on stage from right)

**Janet:** (to audience) Oh no! There comes Cindy....I hate her...she was so mean to me back in high school....I will never forgive her for that!

**Penelope:** (points at " Seek Peace by Forgiving" sign...then hits Janet on head with hammer.

**Janet:** Oh no! stop that!! OK OK. ( walks over to Cindy)(speaks quite quietly, as if not expecting much of a response) Hello Cindy. I would like to talk to you sometime.

**Cindy:** (sincerely, as if she's been waiting for this opportunity ) Oh, I would really like to talk to you , too.

**Janet:** (surprised) You would? Well, how about right now?  
(both sit down on chairs...quietly talk...mimic talking to each other)

-----Sign-----1 HOUR LATER-----

**Cindy:** Anyway, that's why I was the way I was. I've been wanting to apologize to you for years, but you always avoid me. I am so sorry for everything.

**Janet:** I understand it all so much better now....and I forgive you, Cindy...and God bless you for sharing that all with me.

**Janet and Cindy hug..Cindy walks off stage and sits in pews)**

**Penelope :** (points at “Forgiving” and “Blessing” signs, and has a big smile as she taps Janet with pointer.

**Janet:** ( holding her heart) I really love that peaceful feeling.  
(both walk off stage, Penelope following Janet)

=====**Sign**=====WEDNESDAY=====

**Janet:**(walks on stage from left, followed by Penelope)

**Mr. Carpenter:** (walks on stage from right wearing a tool belt)

**Janet:** Well, Mr Carpenter, did you finish shingling the garage?

**Mr. Carpenter:** Yes, I did, mam. All done. Here is the bill...for exactly the amount I quoted you earlier. (hands bill to Janet and she looks at it)

**Janet:** Yes, I see that....but... I’ve decided to “deduct” several hundred dollars...so here is your cheque. (holds cheque out to Mr Carpenter, whose head is down looking very disappointed)

**Penelope:** (points at “fair” sign & proceeds to hit Janet with hammer)

**Janet:** (holds finger up and says to Mr Carpenter) Just a minute, I’ll be right back. (walks to side with Penelope) What now? Stop stop hitting me!! I have a good reason. Now listen...(she explains carefully as though her explanation actually makes sense ) If I save a few hundred dollars here, I can buy myself that outfit I saw in the boutique the other day without feeling guilty about it!

**Penelope: (keeps hitting her) You disgust me!! You are not being fair! This is not a way to seek peace...it's a way to seek a fight! Do you know, no of course you don't, because you don't care...but Mr. Carpenter gave you a great price and did a great job...and he's having a very hard time making ends meet because his business has been slow lately.**

**Janet: OK OK...just stop that!!!  
(sweetly)Oh Mr Carpenter!! (walks back to Mr Carpenter)  
Silly me...did I say "deduct" a few hundred dollars (writes on cheque)....I meant I was going to "add" a few hundred dollars...because you did such a good job!**

**Mr Carpenter: Wow! Thanks so much! (shakes her hand vigorously)You have no idea how much this will help me. God Bless you!**

**Janet: (seems surprised at his reaction, and has to finally remove her hand from his vigorous handshake) Oh my! You're very welcome, Mr Carpenter. God Bless you, too!! (Mr Carpenter walks off stage with his cheque, looking very happy)**

**Penelope: (points at "Fair" sign and "Blessing" sign and taps her with pointer)**

**Janet: (holds heart again) Yes, I think I'm beginning to get it. This warm, peaceful feeling is way better than a new outfit!  
(both walk off stage, Penelope following Janet)**

**====Sign=====THURSDAY=====**

**Janet: (walks on stage, followed by Penelope) I've been trying to do peaceful things, all week, so I guess I should go and visit Tabatha...although that will be kind of depressing. She's quite sick and has many treatments ahead of her. I should probably go and cheer her up. Then maybe Penelope Peace, my Peace angel will tap me with her peaceful pointer again.  
(walks toward Tabatha, who is sitting in chair to the right ) Hello Tabatha.**

**Tabatha:** (sitting on chair wearing a housecoat, speaks quite weakly)  
Hi , how nice of you to come.

**Janet:** Yes, I thought I'd come to cheer you up.(sits down on other chair beside Tabatha)

**Tabatha:** Oh? (seems surprised because she knows how Janet is)

**Janet:** (talking quite excitedly, loudly, quickly, so that Tabatha can't get a word in )Yes, I'm going to tell you all about the cruise that I just returned from...it was glorious...I have lots of pictures in here in my purse.(shows purse, still sitting there from first scene)...and about the next trip we're planning on taking to the west coast...and oh yes, I need to tell you about my kids. They are all doing so well...and making so much money....(Tabatha looks sadly away in opposite direction)

(Penelope keeps hitting Janet with hammer, harder and harder, as she keeps talking)

**Janet:** (holds finger up ) Just a minute , Tabatha, I'll be right back.  
(walks away with Penelope) Why are you hitting me, I'm trying to cheer her up?

**Penelope:** Were you in church a few weeks ago when they talked about "humility"

**Janet:** Yes, I was there.

**Penelope:**(angry, yells at her) Well, you don't have any!! (slowly and clearly) You are an idiot! You know Tabatha is quite ill, and you know she's had a lot of problems with her son, too! How in the world is your "bragging" going to cheer her up?

**Janet:** (again explaining, as if this actually makes sense )Well, I thought all my good news would help her not to think about her problems.

**Penelope:** I repeat...you are an idiot! (hits her with hammer) This visit is about her, not you!



**Janet :...Fine, let me try again.....  
(both return to Tabatha's bedside)**

**Janet: (speaking much more softly & slowly) Well, enough about me.  
Tell me about your treatments, and how you're feeling. Is there  
anything I can do for you?. (Tabatha mimics talking, Janet is listening  
and nodding her head)**

-----**Sign-----1 HOUR LATER-----**

**Janet : Wow! I had no idea. Now I know exactly what to pray for...And  
I know, with you not working right now, money is probably a bit short,  
so I'm going to go and get some groceries for you . You make a list of  
what you need, and I'll be happy to get them for you. I know a  
manicurist who does housecalls. I'd like to make arrangements for her  
to come and give you a pedicure sometime. Would you like that?**

**Tabatha: I would love that. Thank-you so much.**

**Janet: I'm sure there's a group of us that could bring in dinners for you  
and your family. Would that be helpful?**

**Tabatha: That would be wonderful!**

**Janet: Let's pray together, before I leave. (both bow in prayer)**

**Tabatha: (holds Janet's hands and looks her in the eyes )Thank-you.**

**Janet: God Bless you, Tabatha.**

**Tabatha: God Bless you, too.**

**Janet(gets up and walks toward left) (Tabatha returns to pews)**

**Penelope (points at "sharing" sign and" blessing" sign...then taps Janet  
with pointer) See... you shared your time, your money, and gifts with  
her.**

**Janet: (holds her heart and smiles )Thank-you. I learned so much today.**

**(both go off stage, Penelope following Janet)**

=====Sign=====FRIDAY=====

**Penelope: Well, it's Friday...time for me to leave. I hope you've learned something this week.**

**Janet: Yes, I have. I've learned that in order to "Seek Peace" we have to "practice peace". ..in all the ways we've mentioned on the Peace Tree. It doesn't help to listen to the message on Sunday..and go ahead and do whatever we want the rest of the week. Practice makes perfect, they say...so the more I practice, the better I'll be at doing peaceful, loving things. Thank-you Penelope Peace. God Bless You.**

**Penelope: You're very welcome. And God Bless you, too! (touches her with wand....leaves stage)**

**Janet: (holding her heart) I really really love that!!!...(then to congregation )and you will, too!!  
(leaves stage)**

=====Sign=====The End=====