

#### **#4 Seek Peace through Humility**

**Narrator: Good Morning!**

**This is our 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday where we're learning about ways of seeking peace. See our Peace Tree. So far we've learned about Seeking Peace with our Neighbours, Seeking Peace by Forgiving, and Seeking Peace by Being Fair.**

**Today's lesson is called Seeking Peace through Humility. Humility is kind of a big word, so I'll try to explain it. God gives each of us a gift. Some people are very good at colouring. Are any of you really good at colouring? That's great! Some people are very good with music, and some are good at teaching or baking, or quilting, ...and some people are very good at making money. Now these are all gifts from God...and there are many many more...all kinds of different gifts that God gives us. But it's very important that we don't "brag" about our gifts .**

**That means if you walk around saying "I'm a good colourer...I'm better than everyone else" or " I'm such a good singer", "I'm so smart and make so much money" ....that's what we call bragging....and that's what you do if you don't have humility. When people brag a lot about themselves, other people get kind of angry...and maybe roll their eyes,...and maybe walk away....because no one really wants to listen to that . God doesn't want to listen to that either.**

**But if you have humility, instead of bragging about your gifts, you "share" your gifts. Like in church for example, often someone shares their gift of music with us by singing or playing the piano or the organ...and we can all enjoy it. There are also many people who have the gift of time, and they help at the etc shop, or they help to feed people at the Mennonite Home. All gifts are wonderful if they are shared. So today I want you to watch the skit and later we'll talk about what you think about what Maggie did with her gifts. So you sit down and watch carefully.**

## Skit

**Stage has a small table and a chair. There are newspapers on the table, a coffee cup, a telephone, cheques, a pen**

**2 actors....Max**

**Maggie**

**Max: (walks on stage, speaks to audience) Good Morning. I'm Max. I have the day off today, so I slept in a bit(looks at his watch). My wife, Maggie, had to go to work for a short meeting this morning, but soon she'll be home, too. We're going to help with the Community Meal today. And after that we're going to the Park for the rest of the day . We're going to do some canoeing and walking on the nature trails. It should be fun. We never seem to have time to share anymore...to do stuff like that together. It should be a good, peaceful day. (sits down at table and reads the newspaper, and drinks cup of coffee)**

**Maggie:(walks in carrying purse...seems very happy and excited) Oh Max...you'll never guess what happened!! You know that extra project that I've been working on for the past 6 months? You told me that I had a gift of coming up with original ideas, remember? (Max nods) Well, you were right. The boss loved it, and the whole executive loved it. They all said that I was brilliant to have come up with it! Brilliant! I am brilliant!! (hands up in air)**

**Max: (slightly annoyed) Yes dear, you are brilliant. You have the gift of brilliance.**

**Maggie: Fine...make fun of me...but take a look at this!! It's my bonus cheque. (shows Max a cheque)**

**Max: Wow!! That is awesome!! What are you going to do with it?**

**Maggie: Well, I was thinking about that on the way home....and this is what I've decided. I'm going to share this gift. (has pad of paper and a pen, and jots things down, while she's talking) I've decided to give this**

**much to MCC (shows Max amount she's written on the pad...they help the poor people all over the world, you know.**

**Max: That's a great idea.**

**Maggie: And I'm going to give this much to the Meat Canners.(shows Max amount on pad again) We can't ever help, because we're always working that day, but this should help....feed the hungry.**

**Max: (nodding) Wonderful!**

**Maggie: And I'm going to give this much to Mennonite Disaster Service....to help all those people who just went through that hurricane.**

**Max: Super!**

**Maggie: ...And....this much is for you....so you can buy that car part you've been talking about for your old car.(you can change this...it was funny in our skit, because I was Maggie, my husband was Max...and everyone knows my husband has an old car)**

**Max: (jumps up and kisses her) Thanks Hon!**

**Maggie: And this much is for me....I think I'll get myself something really nice.**

**Max: Well...that sounds absolutely perfect. God did bless you with the ability for coming up with all the ideas for that project...and doing such a great job with it....and now by sharing your bonus....I am very proud of you! . And I'm sure God is proud of you, too. He gave you that gift , after all!**

**(looks at watch) We should leave in about an hour to help at the community meal.**

**Maggie:** I know. I'm just going to take this cheque to the bank first...and then we can go. Here's the list I just told you about...while you're waiting for me, you can make out all the cheques.

**Max:** I would love to.  
(Maggie leaves with her cheque waving it around)(Max writes cheques...then looks at a car magazine)

**Max:** There, the cheques are all made out...I think I'll look at the car part catalogue now...and find that part I want.

Someone walks across holding sign that says "1 Hour Later"

(looking at watch....phone rings)

Hi Maggie. Where are you? We should be leaving for the community meal. You can't make it? Something's come up? Well, OK ...I'll call. (shakes head). I don't understand this...what could have come up? (dials)

Hello....yes...this is Max. Maggie and I were going to help today...but something's come up, so we won't be able to come after all. I am so sorry. (hangs up phone)

(to audience)I feel really bad about this....they needed our help.

Someone carries another sign that says " 2 hours later"

**Maggie:** (walks in with tons of parcels)

**Max:** What is going on? What are all those parcels? I thought you were just going to the bank.

**Maggie:** Well, I kind of changed my mind....and went shopping instead.

**Max:** But what about the day we'd planned on sharing with each other? And they needed our help today at the community meal, you know.

**Maggie:** Oh well! I decided today is all about me ! It was my brains (taps her head) my project...it was my cheque...so I went on a shopping trip for me!

**Max:** (shaking head) Here.... I made out the cheques.

**Maggie:** I'll probably have to re-calculate them....a bit.

**Max:** Here is the MCC cheque.

**Maggie:** yeah...I sort of spent that one on me (rips up cheque) I'm sure they get enough money from other people anyway.

**Max:** Here is the Meat Canners cheque.

**Maggie:** (rips up cheque) I sort of spent that one on me, too. Who wants to eat all that canned meat any way?

**Max:** Well, how about the Mennonite Disaster Service cheque.

**Maggie:** (rips up cheque) Yeah, I spent that one on me, too. Don't you think those disasters are exaggerated anyway? I'm sure those people will be just fine without any money from me!

**Max:** And here is the car part that I'm going to order. (shows her magazine)

**Maggie:** No...you better not.

**Max:** You spent the entire cheque?

**Maggie:** Well...it was "my " cheque...after all....and my brilliant ideas...so I decided that I deserved it all for myself...because I'm worth it!

**Max:** I know I am disappointed and angry at you right now....how do you think all those poor people would feel if they could see you here with all your packages?....And how do you think God feels as he looks at you right now? (Max walks off stage)

**Maggie:** (situates parcels around her, sits down, looking sad) Here I am with all my “stuff”. I should be happy and peaceful, right?...but somehow, I’m not...I feel angry at Max...but mostly I am angry with myself!..and I’m pretty sure God is pretty disappointed with me , too. (puts head down on table)

**Narrator:**What do you think about what Maggie did?

She started out with the right ideas, didn’t she?

But then she got kind of selfish...and wanted to take all the credit and all the money for herself. She forgot all about the community meal , spending time with her husband, Max, and about sharing her money with others less fortunate,

We have to remember that all our gifts are from God...and he gave them to us so that we could share them with others. There are so many different kinds of gifts. So lets all remember to have humility...which means not to brag about our gifts...but to share them with others instead.

So our sign today says

Seek Peace by Sharing...hang sign on the Peace Tree

**Note:** This skit worked out well in that Max had his lines on the table and in the newspapers he was reading, and I ( Maggie) had memorized most of them, but had some on the writing pad I was holding, and also on the table...so people didn’t really see them.