

Dear Conference participant,

These slides are provided for you to refer to AFTER the presentation.

But **please DO NOT read them before the presentation**, as it will be better for you to hear the presentation “fresh” rather than having seen all the slides beforehand!

If you would like to get some background on what I will be sharing about, please feel free to visit peacewise.org and check out the sections on PeaceWiseKids and PeaceWiseYouth.

Note that this PDF includes multiple hotlinks to take you to webpages.

I’m very much looking forward to sharing with you at the Conference!

Warmly, Bruce Burgess, National Director



Preparing children and young people to be peacemakers

and

building a healthy, relational culture of peace

Bruce Burgess
National Director
peacewise.org.au



A word of
thanks to
two mighty
leaders



Who is PeaceWise?



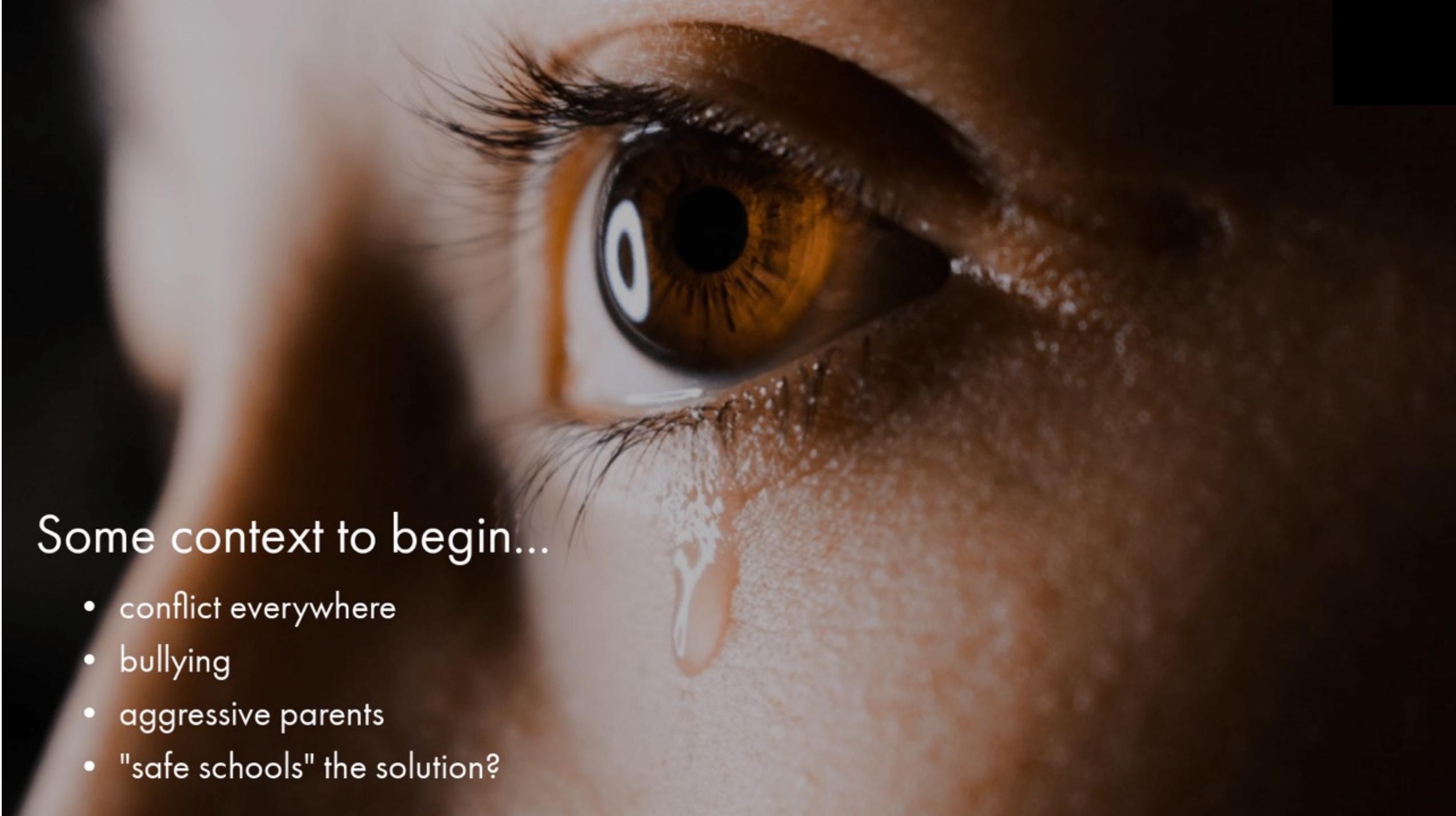
PeaceWise
building peacemakers for life

- Cross-denominational, Christian charity
- Formed 2007, operates in Australia and, increasingly, internationally
- Long term vision to teach biblical peacemaking to children and young people
- Biblical principles + practical tools
- Vision for building communities of peace

What we'll cover today

- Context: the conflicts in our schools, families...
- Personal reflection
- A vision of what can be: a case study
- The benefits of building a culture of peace
- How do you do it?
- Next steps?



A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a person's eye. The eye is brown and looking slightly to the right. A single, clear tear is falling from the lower eyelid, creating a small puddle on the skin below. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the individual eyelashes. The background is dark and out of focus.

Some context to begin...

- conflict everywhere
- bullying
- aggressive parents
- "safe schools" the solution?

A close-up, side-profile shot of a woman with long, wavy blonde hair wearing a light-colored straw hat. She is looking down and to the left, with her hand near her chin in a contemplative pose. The background is a blurred white surface, possibly a vehicle.

What impact would
learning to deal with
conflict well
as a child have had on
your relationships
through your life?

A vision of
what
could be...



Case study: Melton Christian College, Melbourne, Australia

[click on the photo or here to see this video](#)

The benefits of building a culture of peace

- The School, family, etc. becomes a place where people feel safe and can thrive.
- Conflicts are resolved personally and privately without automatic escalation being the default response.
- Relationships are strengthened and preserved.
- Reduced absenteeism and bullying.
- Reduced time and emotional capital spent by leadership dealing with conflict issues.
- Conflicts are turned into OPPORTUNITIES for God to work, for people to serve others and to mature in faith and character.

The benefits of building a culture of peace

- People become more humble and gentle with each other, are more forgiving and easier to forgive.
- Grudges are not held and there are no more toxic undercurrents of long term issues not dealt with dragging people down.
- Increased collaboration and trust drives positive school, parent and staff outcomes.
- When shared with students (and even parents/carers), becomes a common language and set of principles that all can use, increasing connection between all parts of the School community
- The reputation of the School/church/community is enhanced, making it an attractive place for parents to send their children.
- Peace and reconciliation become marks of your school, glorifying Jesus Christ, enhancing your witness and spreading the Gospel.

How do I teach peacemaking and build this culture?

- 1. Decide** you want to and be serious
- 2. Teach** the children, and for schools, teach the staff
- 3. Embed:** vision, values, strategic planning, more community



PeaceWiseKids
peacemakers for life



PeaceWiseYouth
peacemakers for life

Teaching the students: PeaceWiseKids and PeaceWiseYouth

- 7 courses from Kindergarten to end of School
- All have teaching videos plus comprehensive in class activities, lesson plans
- Full scope and sequence, support documents, curriculum outcomes
- For Years 3-10 (ages 8-16), online content is also available



Show me what it looks like!! [visit peacewise.org]



THE PEACEMAKING PIZZA



1. **GOD: PUT GOD FIRST** in planning my response to conflict. (1 Corinthians 10:31) Seek to please God, get his guidance and see the conflict as an opportunity to grow.



3. **YOU: TALK IT OVER** with the other person or people. (Galatians 6:1) Apologise for the part I have owned. Encourage them kindly to own their part. Negotiate any issues.



2. **ME: OWN MY PART** in a conflict. (Matthew 7:3-5) Examine my emotions, my roadblocks, my selfish desires. Pray, repenting of my poor choices and ask God's forgiveness.

4. **US: MAKE IT RIGHT** between us. (Matthew 5:23-24) Give and receive forgiveness. This is reconciliation, which leads to a restored relationship.



STAYING ON TOP OF CONFLICT



PeaceWiseKids
peacemakers for life

peacewisekids.org

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5 A'S OF APOLOGY

1. **ADMIT** your part - without saying *if, but or maybe*
2. **APOLOGISE** specifically for your poor choices
3. **ACCEPT** the consequences
4. **ASK** for forgiveness
5. **ALTER** your behaviour and attitude

Proverbs 28:13



4 CHOICES OF FORGIVING



1. **(HOOSE** to think good not bad thoughts about the other person
2. **(HOOSE** to not use the incident against them
3. **(HOOSE** to not talk about what they did to others
4. **(HOOSE** to be friendly with the person again

Ephesians 4:32

THE PAWS PROCESS



REPARE - pause, pray, get advice



ASK what they want and why



WORK it through



OLVE it together

Philippians 2:3-4

PeaceWise thanks Corlette Sande, author of The Young Peacemaker, for permission to quote from and adapt that work. Corlette is on the staff of Relational Wisdom 360. rw360.org

What about an example from high school?!! [visit peacewiseyouth.org]



Being a peacemaker in a complex world

PEACEMAKING JOURNAL



Special mention:
Course for Ages 16-25

Biblical peacemaking +

Christian worldview +

8 hot topics including
addiction, mental
health, technology and
social media, identity,
grace and forgiveness

Going deeper in schools

- Connection to vision and values
- Sharing with the parents
- Making it part of the language and visual eco-system
- Revisiting policy framework



What
about the
US
context?

Christian schools

Home schooling

Churches

Families

Next steps?

- Consider possible use situations – e.g. school, family, church
- Pray!
- visit peacewisekids.org for free trials to check it out
- Decide to move forward!
- USE IT or SHARE ABOUT IT with others
- Reach out to us – we would love to support you 😊

enquiry@peacewise.org.au

bruceb@peacewise.org.au

peacewise.org

+61 2 8839 5860

