

Second Sunday of Advent

I will listen to what you have to say, Adonai—a voice that speaks of peace.

—Psalm 85:8 The Inclusive Psalms

Explore

advent wreath,
lighter, *Sing a New
Song*

Advent of Peace

Light the first Advent candle in the wreath created last Sunday. Say, “Today we light the candle of peace as we look in hope for peace.” Ask a volunteer to read verse two of “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace,” *Sing a New Song* 34.

Extract

Bible, paper, pens

Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13

It’s All in the Translation

Read Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13. Have several versions of the scripture available. Discuss what the author was trying to get across to the reader. Sometimes we need to translate scripture into a language we can understand and apply it to our day and time. Divide the class into small groups. Have them rewrite the psalm in their understanding. Bring the groups together and share their psalms with the class. Feel free to stop and discuss the different interpretations. Another option is to have the groups put their psalm to music. If students are willing, have the class sing the song before the entire congregation.

Experience

Speaking Peace

There are many languages spoken in the world by various people in different countries. How can we speak peace to someone if we don’t speak their language? Ask the students if they know the word “peace” in another language; have them share it with the class. Look at the peace words in the chart. Have the students try to pronounce them. Using these words, have students make a wall mural for the classroom or the congregation. See the following Web site for peace ideas: www.peacewalkinternational.com.

paper for wall
mural, markers or
paints, tape

Ukuthula
Paz
Shalom

Language	Country	Peace
Amharic	Ethiopia	Selam
Catalin	Spain	Pau
Chinese (Mandarin)	China	He Ping
Creole	Haiti	Lapé
Dutch	Netherlands	Vrede
Egyptian	Egypt	Hetep
French	France	Paix
German	Germany	Frieden
Hebrew	Israel	Shalom
Hindi	India	Shanti
Igbo	Nigeria	Udo
Italian	Italy	Pace
Japanese	Japan	Heiwa
Ntomba	Zaire	Nye
Russian	Russia	Mire
Sioux	Native American	Wo’okeyeh
Spanish	Spain/ Mexico	Paz
Tangut	China	Nei
Vietnamese	Vietnam	Su Thai Binh
Zulu	South Africa	Ukuthula

Peace Candle Mini-Mural

Have two to three large, three-wick, cylindrical candles (depending on the number of youth in class) and many different color permanent markers. Precut vellum paper (available at hobby and craft stores) to fit around the candle. If appropriate, divide into groups, and give each group a candle.

candles, permanent markers, vellum paper, tape

On scrap paper plan and draw a mini-mural that illustrates “shalom for every child.” Then transfer the illustration to the vellum paper using the permanent markers. When finished, wrap the paper around the candle and fasten with transparent tape. Use these candles to add to or create a worship center in your meeting room.

Expand

Messenger of the Gospel

Review Mark 1:1–8/1–6 IV. It tells about John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. It describes John’s appearance as being rugged, unkept, and “turn-offish” to the general public. Does the messenger’s appearance have an impact on the message? What kind of messengers do you listen to? Describe them. Have articles of clothing such as jackets, hats, coats, or dresses; props such as canes, walkers, suitcases, or bags; and makeup available for the students to use. Ask a few students to dress up and, in character, deliver the message that John the Baptist shared with the people about Christ. Make sure those in character don’t look the same.

Bible, costumes, props, index cards, pens, Advent wreath, lighter

After the experiment, ask the listeners which messenger was more appealing. Discuss the reasons why they did or did not appeal to you.

How do you present yourself as a messenger of the gospel? Is your appearance acceptable to the people you are trying to reach? Does your message match your lifestyle? Or do you say one thing and do another? If you speak the peace, your life should also speak peace or your message is not heard. What are areas in your life that you need to work on to better speak peace to those you meet? Distribute index cards and pens to students. Ask them to make a commitment to work on three areas that need tweaking. Write the three areas on the card; ask students to put the cards where they will see them often to help them remember.

Gather around the Advent wreath and close with volunteer prayers asking God to work in you and your students’ lives so peace can be spoken to the world more clearly.