

Share Christ's Peace: Going Deeper Opening Community Worship

Worship Setting

Before the start of activities, arrange the pews or chairs for people to be seated, taking into account the space requirements for group activities and mixers. Have flip charts available to use during this session. Questions will be asked and responses will be used to develop the worship setting for the week.

Songs for Praise and Gathering

Use songs that will appeal to all ages. A mix that is mindful of the generations that are present will assist in creating a community atmosphere. Have someone, or a group of people, familiar with the music, passionately lead the singing.

Suggested Songs

"Peace of Jesus"	<i>Share Christ's Peace</i>	(Reunion Text)
"Lord, Thou Hast Brought Us to This Place"		HS 6
"All Things Bright and Beautiful"		HS 18
"Come, Rejoice Before Your Maker"		HS 44
"Yesu, Yesu, Fill Us with Your Love"		HS 407
"I Love to Tell the Story"		HS 473
"Gather Us In"		SP 4
"We Are People of God's Peace"		SP 6
"For Beauty of Meadows"		SP 14
"Holy Ground"		NS 13
"How Majestic Is Your Name"		NS 16
"I Will Sing, I Will Sing"		NS 19
"Jesus Is the Rock"		NS 24
"Listen"		NS 30
"Meet Me in a Holy Place"		NS 36
"Shine, Jesus, Shine"		NS 45
"Kum ba yah"		R-7
"Christ Leads!"		R-12/13

Welcome/Sharing Christ's Peace

"Share Christ's peace" is a phrase that carries with it mystery and challenge. What exactly is Christ's peace? Wearing the letters "WWJD?" was a recent popular fad. These four simple letters were a call to inquiry: What would Jesus do if confronted with contemporary challenges? The question could be dismissed as one that had no answer, because in the absence of Jesus, how could one respond? But the challenge is in exploring the plausibility and potential of Jesus' responses to situations and then incorporating the underlying principles into our lives. Perhaps the challenge of the theme "Share Christ's Peace" is

similar. We could dismiss it as impossible to pin down, because there are too many variables in contemporary culture and too few examples of Christ explaining the concepts of peace from his unique kingdom perspective. However, the more practical approach is to explore the illustrations and observations that Jesus provided, and begin a faith journey that includes Jesus as the prince and teacher of peace.

As Jesus was preparing the disciples for his death, he shared words that spoke of peace: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; but the kind of peace I give you is not like the world’s peace. Don’t let your hearts be distressed” (John 14:27 The Inclusive New Testament). Jesus still calls us, assuring us that his peace is for this time and times to come. We will explore Christ’s peace through worship, classes, and relationships. This material is organized around these themes: 1) Going Deeper, 2) Seek the Kingdom, 3) Break Down Walls, 4) A Willing Yes, and 5) Be Peace.

Hymn: “Instruments of Your Peace”

NS 21

Prayer—Sharing Christ’s Peace

Reading

“The phrase ‘the peace of Jesus Christ’ contains all of the promises, hopes, and blessings of the gospel as revealed by Christ and as affirmed by the Holy Spirit, his promised presence with us. In all of the places in our lives where we are afraid, anxious, discouraged, guilt-ridden, or alienated, Jesus Christ speaks ‘peace’ and opens the way to peace, not just for individuals, but for the whole of creation” (Stephen M. Veazey, World Conference 2005 Sermon).

We Come Together to Explore Peace—Group Activities

These activities are intended to be intergenerational and assist in amplifying the theme. Supplies needed are noted. Review these rules before you begin:

1. *Remember safety.*
2. *Have fun.*
3. *Build relationships; get to know one another.*
4. *When someone is alone, don’t hesitate to get him or her involved in the activity.*

Activity 1—World “Peas” and Christ’s Peace

Materials needed: jelly beans, markers, tape, and flip charts

This activity involves mixing the congregation by the color of jelly bean they receive. Have an equal number of jelly beans (peas) of each color so that each group will have an equal number of people. In front, on flip-chart paper or projected on a screen, list these questions: What is peace? Who is Jesus? What is Jesus’ peace? Each color group records their answers on a flip chart and allows several minutes of sharing. Then, have each small group share their answers with

the entire group. Some of the responses may be used as central word thoughts for the worship setting.

Activity 2—Peace and My Part

Materials needed: large, blank, white jigsaw puzzle; markers or crayons
Distribute a piece of the puzzle to each person along with a marker or crayon. In expressing Christ's peace, we all have gifts, talents, and desires that we can share. For this activity, write or draw on your puzzle piece what you do to make Christ's peace possible. When each person completes his/her piece, assemble the puzzle and place it at the front of the worship area as part of the worship setting.

Introduce the Camp Staff

Present Camp Expectations/Rules

Activity 3—Paths to Peace

Materials needed: tempera paint, sponges, rollers, ribbons, and poster board
Peace is often experienced in different ways. Sometimes working through a conflict may bring peace, while at other times avoiding conflict may be effective in pursuing peace. As a closing activity, create a variety of "paths to peace" by painting paths on the floor (or use some other method). Make each path end at the worship setting that has a picture of Jesus as a focal point.

Our Journey of Peace

In a brief talk, affirm the importance of each person and the contributions they can make in sharing Christ's peace. Through our experience together we will explore different expressions of what it means to live Christ's peace.

Hymn of Peace: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

NS 34

Prayer for Our Time Together

Ending

Before leaving the worship space, walk along the different paths to peace, meeting and greeting those along the way.