

## DAY 5—Be Peace: Live Peace

### Scripture Reading

*Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace to this house!”*

—Luke 10:5 NRSV

*Do not be discouraged. You have not been promised an easy path, but you have been assured that the Spirit that calls you will also accompany you.*

*Continue your journey, O people of the Restoration. You have been blessed thus far but there is so much yet to see, so much yet to do. Go forth with confidence and live prophetically as a people who have been loved, and who now courageously choose to love others in the name of the One you serve. Amen.*

—Doctrine and Covenants 162:3a, 8c

### Music

“We Have the Power to Share the Light” R-17. Available on CD through Herald House.

“Instruments of Your Peace” NS 21

“Lord, Help Me to Know Your Presence” NS 31

“Make Me a Servant” NS 35

“Go, My Children” SP 44

“Brave” by Nichole Nordeman, *WOW Hits 2006* CD

### Worship/Gathering

**Intergenerational book:** *Jerusalem Sky* by Mark Podwal (Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2005), ISBN 0-3857-4689-X.

### Lesson

#### Peace Be with You

Give each student a piece of colored clay. Distribute as many different colors as possible. Ask students to create something with the clay that expresses who they are or what they like. Let each one share with the class about their creation.

After each one shares, put all the clay into one ball. Let it represent the world coming together sharing Christ’s peace. Ask students to observe the different colors and see it symbolically as the spirit of shalom (peace with justice, wholeness, and living in right relationships with God, one another, and all of creation) working in the world. As everyone comes together for the common cause of peace, the individual characteristics blend in harmony and work together to complete the common purpose—joy, well-being, and harmony. Yet the individual characteristics are not lost.

Jesus, on one of the last occasions he met with his disciples, greeted them with “Peace be with you.” This meant more than “Don’t be afraid. Don’t let anything trouble you.” It was the blessing of shalom, “May God grant you every good thing.” Shalom focuses on the positive, on good things that God provides, not on fear and worry. Jesus brings peace and wellness, which is good news for us.

### **Be the Peace of Jesus**

Demonstrate a simple science experiment. On a table, light a candle. Ask students to observe the light it gives. Ask someone to turn off the lights in the room or darken the room in some way. Ask the class to describe the difference in the amount of light the candle gives now that the room is dark.

Turn on the lights, and place a clear glass jar over the candle. Ask students to keep an eye on the candle as you discuss the light and dark in the first experiment and how the light can be compared to the peace of Jesus in our lives.

The candle under the jar will eventually extinguish itself due to the lack of oxygen. Bring it to the class’s attention if no one notices it first. Compare it to how our lives would be without the presence of Christ’s peace.

Tell the parable of the lamp on a lampstand from Matthew 5:14–16 NRSV. Ask students to think of a way they can be the peace of Christ. Turn to a partner and share.

### **Share the Peace of Jesus Christ!**

The president of Community of Christ, Stephen M. Veazey, has said the mission of the church is

*being faithful to God, being faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and being faithful to the central mission of the Restoration. . . 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 . . . Christ speaks “peace” and opens the way to peace, not just for individuals, but for the whole of creation . . . Jesus Christ is our peace!*

—Stephen M. Veazey, Community of Christ  
World Conference Sermon, *Herald*, July  
2005, 11–12.

What does this mean for you back home in your church, your school, your community? How will it affect the decisions you make each day? In what situations do you see yourself sharing the peace of Jesus? Divide into small groups. Talk about being Christ’s peace in one of these places.

## **Suggested Activities**

### **Pass the Peace**

This activity is taken from *Go With Peace* by Kelly Guinan (Blair, NE: Kind Regards, LLC, 2005), 102, ISBN 0-9719-2792-8.

Give each pair of students a two-inch square of paper and two straws. Students are to pass the paper to one another without using their hands. They may blow the paper across a table to their partner, they may fold the straw like chopsticks to grab the paper, or they may suck on the straw to hold the paper on the end of the straw and pass it from one partner to another.

Variation: Once students have mastered their method, divide into two teams and see which team can pass the “peace”—of paper—from one end of their team line to the other.

### **Together in Harmony**

Find partners. Stand face-to-face putting one another’s hands together. Using their partner’s support, have each pair see how far they can lean while walking their feet backwards.

Next, have pairs turn back-to-back, linking their arms. Using the support of each other, challenge the pairs to sit down and then stand up again without unlinking their arms. Discuss their experiences during these activities. What part did working together play? Could these activities be done alone? What did you have to overcome? How was this like living peace?

### **Called to Be Peacemakers**

The church seal is a direct reflection of the peace of Christ illustrated by the lion, the lamb, and the child living in harmony. Below the characters is the word peace. Whether it be in English, French, Russian, German, Swahili, or any other language, it is always there to remind us of the people God has called us to be: “A world-wide church dedicated to the pursuit of peace, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit” (W. Grant McMurray, “Envisioning Our Future: A Call to Transformation,” *Herald*, August 1997, 7).

Make a life-size church seal. Have each student stand in for the youth in the seal. Provide something for students to stand on so the word “Peace” is visible. Take a digital photograph and print it for each student to take home. (Photos may be displayed or put in their jigsaw-puzzle frame and used as a part of the closing service.) Invite younger children to have their pictures taken, too.



## **Peace Beads**

Prayer beads have been used in many cultures and by many faiths since ancient times as a way of remembering specific reasons for prayer. Each bead is moved as a prayer is said. As a way of remembering your own prayers for peace, make peace beads to be worn on the wrist. Provide nine different colored beads and memory wire or elastic cord for each youth. Have students select a bead symbolic for each of the following:

Purple—praise for God and Jesus, our model for being peace

Green—peace for the earth

Blue—inner peace

Red—peace for your school

Pink—peace for your congregation

Orange—peace in your community

Yellow—peace for the church in the world

White—peace for people who need your help

Clear—a reminder to “be peace; live peace”

## **Journal**

### **Working for Peace**

Albert Einstein once said that if only 2 percent of the world’s population were willing to change, their influence would be enough to bring about peace and security between nations. If you choose to be a part of the 2 percent willing to change, what would be your first action in the journey toward the peaceable kingdom? How can you be peace and live peace?

## **Peace Prayer**

### **Peace Go with You**

Place the mosaic candle holders made earlier in the week in the center of the room and light them. Put the peace beads to use, and invite students to offer silent prayers for what each bead symbolizes. When finished, give one another hugs or shake hands and say, “Peace go with you. Be peace; live peace.”