

## Session 5 Be Peace

### *Worship Setting*

*Continue adding to the worship setting. Place leftovers, including the sacks from the prior service, in the worship setting. Display water and basins for a hand-washing ministry.*

### **Centering Thoughts**

The reunion text provides a three-step model of how to “be peace”:

“Christ’s view of evangelism is a matter of meeting people where they are and offering shalom, extending God’s kingdom by inviting others to join us in living according to God’s peace...Jesus first emphasized a few details to set the right stage, spirit, and self-image. He pointed out that there was lots of work, but few workers, that mission originates with the Lord, and that workers go out as lambs among wolves. By telling them not to take extra materials, he created a sense of dependency and vulnerability. Their message was embodied in one word—Shalom. He outlined a three step program wherever their shalom was accepted—eat, heal, speak.”

—James E. Metzler, “Shalom Is the Mission of Peace,” ed. Robert Ramseyer, *Mission and the Peace Witness: The Gospel of Christian Discipleship* (Scottsdale, Arizona: Herald Press, 1979), 36.

Using these three concepts as a guide, create a service with three sections: eat, heal, and speak.

### **Praise Singing**

“Peace of Jesus”	<i>Reunion Text</i>
“We’re Singing a Peace Song”	<i>SP 19</i>
“God! When Human Bonds Are Broken”	<i>SP 18</i>

**Call to Worship:** Luke 10:1–9

**Song of Invitation:** “Christ Has Called Us to New Visions” *SP 38*

### **Prayer of Invitation**

### **Focus Moment**

Share the story *Jerusalem Sky* by Mark Podwal (Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2005), ISBN 038574689X. This poem presents the meaning Jerusalem holds for Judaism (stars), Christianity (crosses), and Islam (crescents). The three religions are portrayed in a balanced way, demonstrating the possibility that they could peacefully coexist within the walls of Jerusalem.

## **Eat**

### **Words of Affirmation/Spoken Word**

Use the story of Zacchaeus found in Luke 19 as an example of being transformed and being peace. Eating and table fellowship may be used as an example of sharing in relationship—a way of being peace. The use of Communion or an Agape meal at this point in the service may be appropriate.

**A Hymn on Being Peace:** “Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands”

*SP 15/R-15*

## **Heal**

### **Words of Affirmation/Spoken Word**

Use the story found in Luke 5:17–20 as an example of being peace. In this story, friends lower the paralytic man through a roof in order for him to be healed by Jesus. This is an example of a tangible way of being peace, of seeking healing or restoration for others. A service of hand washing may be appropriate using the John 13:14 as the scripture lesson for the importance of being peace through healing.

**Hymn of Healing:** “Heal Me, Hands of Jesus”

*SP 33*

## **Speak**

### **Words of Affirmation/Spoken Word**

The words found in Matthew 28:16–20 create a wonderful framework to discuss speaking peace in the world. We are not only hearers of the word, but also commissioned to teach people about the peaceable kingdom.

**An Illustration/ Disciples’ Generous Response:** Vignette: “Purpose” *see below*

**Hymn of Commitment:** “Go, My Children”

*SP 44*

## **Benediction**

**An Illustration/ Disciples' Generous Response**  
Vignette: "Purpose"

ONE: (*enters, paging through Bible, begins crossing area*)

TWO: (*follows, reading magazine, looks up*) Hey, One, have you read the latest issue of *Christian Magazine*? (*holds up magazine cover*)

ONE: (*turns*) Huh? Oh, yeah, that came out a couple weeks ago. Why?

TWO: I just wanted to make sure everybody took the test.

ONE: Oh, you mean that test to find your spiritual gifts?

TWO: Yeah, did you take it?

ONE: I looked at it. But I didn't take the test. I already know what my spiritual gifts are.

TWO: You do?

ONE: Yes.

TWO: Oh.

ONE: (*turns, resumes reading, steps toward opposite exit*)

TWO: Aren't you going to ask me what my spiritual gifts are?

ONE: (*turns*) Huh? Oh, I'm sorry. I'm a little preoccupied. A lady in the hospital asked me a question about the Bible, and I had no idea how to answer. (*points to Bible*) What was the question again?

TWO: My spiritual gifts.

ONE: Oh, yes. So, what are your spiritual gifts?

TWO: (*swaggers*) Actually, according to the test, I have THREE spiritual gifts. I have the gift of teaching, and the gift of helps, and the gift of leadership.

ONE: Three gifts! That's nice.

TWO: I thought you'd be impressed.

ONE: So, what ministries are you in?

TWO: Ministries?

ONE: Yes. You know, serving? How are you serving?

TWO: We were talking about my spiritual gifts. Why are you asking me about serving?

ONE: You're kidding, right?

TWO: No. I don't see the connection.

ONE: Don't tell me that with all those gifts you're not in any ministries.

TWO: No. So what?

ONE: This is a put-on, right? What's the punch line?

TWO: There's no punch line. Spiritual gifts show how spiritually mature a person is. What does that have to do with serving?

ONE: You're serious. You really believe that?

TWO: Well, sure. I'm sure I read that somewhere.

ONE: Well, it wasn't in the Bible.

TWO: It wasn't?

ONE: No. And spiritual gifts have nothing whatsoever to do with your Christian maturity. (*offers Bible*) Can you show me where it says that the closer you get to the Lord, the more gifts you get?

TWO: (*pulls hands away as if the Bible is infected*) Well, actually, no I can't.

ONE: So, let me get this right. You have a gift for teaching, but you're not teaching anyone?

TWO: Well, no.

ONE: And you have a gift for helping people, but you're not helping anyone?

TWO: Well, no, but....

ONE: And you have a gift for leadership but you're not leading anyone?

TWO: No! When would I possibly have time for any of that?

ONE: There are seven days and seven nights per week. Are you saying you don't have even one night per week to use your gifts to serve the Lord?

TWO: Well, no. Monday night is bowling night. Wednesday night I have midweek service at church. Friday night I go out. Saturday is house-cleaning day and Saturday night I play racquet-ball. And Sunday night, if I don't go to church, I catch up on my thank-you notes and letter writing.

ONE: What about Tuesday and Thursday nights?

TWO: Tuesday and Thursday I have adult education.

ONE: What courses are you taking?

TWO: I'm taking a pottery class. I just made this darling little trivet...

ONE: *(turns to audience, bows head and closes eyes)*

TWO: ...with a beautiful floral design and filigree around the... You're not listening to me. What are you doing?

ONE: I'm praying.

TWO: You're praying... for me?

ONE: No, I'm praying for all the people who will not have their needs met because you're too busy.

TWO: Oh, don't lay that guilt trip on me.

ONE: I'm not laying a guilt trip on you. I have the gift of prayer. I am praying that the Lord will find someone else to do the work that he set aside for YOU to do.

TWO: People aren't just standing around waiting for me to serve them.

ONE: Just a moment, let me finish. *(pauses, looks up)* Thank you, Lord. *(to Two)* Now, where were we?

TWO: You were laying a guilt trip on me.

ONE: Oh, yes, I was about to tell you that if your ministries are anything like mine, only the Lord knows if the work set aside for you isn't getting done.

TWO: So, all it'll cost me to be too busy is a few rewards in heaven.

ONE: All it will cost you is your purpose for living.

TWO: There you go with the guilt trip again.

ONE: Do you think the Lord went to all the trouble to save you so that you could go bowling and play with clay?

TWO: You make it sound so petty.

ONE: Compared to the work the Lord has for you to do, it IS petty! Look, the Lord has uniquely equipped you with life experiences, inborn talents, and spiritual gifts to do a unique job that only YOU can do. If you don't use your spiritual gifts to serve him,

YOUR work may not get done at all.

TWO: Alright, you shamed me into it. But how do I know where the Lord wants me to serve?

ONE: When the Lord gave you your spiritual gifts, he also gave you a sense of excitement to use those gifts. I'll bet that the moment you realized that you have the gift of teaching, you immediately got a mental image of teaching a specific subject to a specific class, didn't you?

TWO: Well, yeah, I guess....

ONE: But that mental image was immediately covered over with self-talk, like, "Naw, I could never do that, I'm too busy."

TWO: Have you been reading my mail?

ONE: No, I went through the same things you're going through right now. When the Lord gave me the gifts of prayer and mercy, immediately, the image appeared in my head of me visiting people in the hospital. But I was too busy. In order to make a real difference in this world, the first thing I had to do was give up some of my activities that don't make a difference, so that I could make room for activities that DO make a difference.

*(both move toward far exit)*

TWO: I suppose you're going to tell me to give up my pottery class.

ONE: I'm sorry, but I don't have the gift of counseling. You'll have to make that decision on your own.

TWO: You know, it's a real shame to give up my classes. In our next pottery class, we were going to make the prettiest little ash tray, with...

ONE: An ash tray!? You don't smoke.

TWO: Oh, that's right! You know, you're very observant. Are you sure you don't have the gift of counseling?

©2005 Bob Snook. Conditions for use:

Do not sell any part of this script, even if you rewrite it.

Pay no royalties, even if you make money from performances.

You may reproduce and distribute this script freely,  
but all copies must contain this copyright statement.

<http://www.fea.net/bobsnook> e-mail: [bobsnook@fea.net](mailto:bobsnook@fea.net)