

Second Sunday of Advent



The Children's Illustrated Bible
page 286

Lord, you forgave your people;
you pardoned their sin. Hear
what the Lord will speak, for
God will speak peace to those
who turn to God in their hearts.
Steadfast love and faithfulness
will meet; righteousness and
peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from
the ground, and righteousness
will look down from the sky. The
Lord will give what is good, and
our land will be blessed with
abundance.

—Psalm 85:1–2, 8–12 adapted

Speak Peace

Invite kids to lay on their backs, meditation style, and listen as you read Psalm 85. This is a beautiful affirmation of peace that will come with God. Kids may snicker at “righteousness and peace will kiss each other,” which makes it great to discuss.

1. Who do you kiss when you feel loving?
2. What does it mean when you kiss someone? Do you want to show them how close you feel to them? The psalm writer says that when holiness and peace come together, God comes into our lives. This could happen at Christmas!

Simon Peter was a disciple of Jesus and the first leader of the church after Jesus went to heaven. Read part of Peter's letter—II Peter 3:8, 9—about waiting for good things to happen. Show the drawing of Peter in *The Children's Illustrated Bible*, page 286. Peter and the early followers kept waiting for Jesus to return. They had seen him after he arose at Easter, and they couldn't wait until he came back to be with them forever. Sometimes it seems to take forever for something good to come, like Christmas. But Peter wrote that a long time for us is only like a day to God. God gives us time to get ready.

Peace Pass

Play a game to speak peace. Invite kids to sit in a circle. Use a soft ball (beach ball) to pass while whispering a phrase of peace into the kid's ear on the right. Kids are to pass the ball and whisper the same phrase, one to another, around the circle. When the ball gets back to you, you should hear the same phrase you began with. Everyone says it aloud together. Now the kid to the right begins a new phrase. Take turns around the circle to say a phrase about how to act while waiting for Jesus to come. Suggested phrases: “Be at peace,” “Have faith,” “God blesses you.” You may increase the speed of passing the ball to create more energy.



Another energy booster: As the phrase moves around the circle, each kid may say it a little louder than they heard it. By the end of the circle, the last kid is shouting the phrase.

Light last week's candle and
another one for today. Ask
kids: Are you still getting
ready for Jesus' coming?
What did you do this week?

Peter told us to be holy while we wait for Jesus to come. Be holy, be at peace, be pure, and be without blame.
—II Peter 3:11–14 adapted



What things can you do to be at peace? Write one word for each letter of the word "peace."

p _____

e _____

a _____

c _____

e _____