

Ordinary Time, Proper 28



The Children's Illustrated Bible

Protecting Kids

Kids should be watched over and protected. This means kids should be protected from abuse and violence. Kids should be protected from using or selling drugs and from being kidnapped or sold. If they have committed a crime, they should be given a fair and quick trial in juvenile court, and not sentenced for life or to death.

In the same way, kids must be protected from war and not be made to serve as soldiers. If they become refugees, they should be given special protection and care.

Children who are in dangerous situations probably feel like giving up many times. But their belief in God can give them hope and help them feel loved. More than that, our belief in God can cause us to take action to help. We are encouraged to show one another outbursts of love and encouragement. Mark writes about the time Jesus encouraged his disciples to share the good news even in the midst of war.

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. This letter encourages all believers to not be weary of good things. The Hebrews had been persecuted and had many troubles. It was hard to keep the faith and continue to believe in Jesus. But the letter encouraged them by telling them again of the story of Jesus. Read Mark 13:7-10 about hard times: wars, earthquakes, and famines. Yet it says this is the time to tell others about Jesus. The good news of Jesus should be shared with every nation.

When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes and there will be famines. But this will be your opportunity to tell others about me. And the good news must be preached to every nation.

—Mark 13:7-10 adapted

Peacemakers from Soldiers

This story is told by a Community of Christ minister in Liberia. Find Liberia on a map or globe. Discuss with kids that the church is located in countries throughout the world, but some countries are often fighting wars. After sharing the story, discuss: Would you have gone to war and become a soldier? Would you want to come back to your village and learn to be a peacemaker? Would it be difficult to go from being a soldier to being a peacemaker? Why or why not?

Liberia had just endured a difficult civil war. During the war, young boys between the ages of eight and twelve had been recruited as soldiers. Many of them carried out raids in Oliver's village, and some of his own relatives died in these raids. As the war ended, those children hid in the mountains in fear for their lives. Oliver wanted the boys to come back to the city without fear of retribution. He wanted to begin a club where the children learned the ways of peace. Within four months, Oliver had gained government clearance to form a club and assemble for the purposes of YPC. At the first meeting, after a parade through the village, more than one hundred children gathered to become charter members of Liberia's first Young Peacemakers Club.

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**What are some things that make you strong?
Write them on the strong kid below.**

