



Pray for Peace

(PEACE)

Peace for the planet is possible.

Scripture Words

The angels said, "Let there be peace on Earth."—Luke 2:14 YB adapted

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD" —Psalm 122:1 NRSV

Jesus said, "Love me and walk in the light of my spirit."
—Doctrine and Covenants 152:4d adapted

Here We Come!

As the children arrive, have several audio presentations going. You may be playing a CD, have the radio on, and a person playing an instrument in one corner of the room, all at the same time. Greet the children as best you can in the midst of the noise. Watch to see what they are attracted to. Make an attempt to gather them in a circle to tell them something. Gradually discontinue one sound source at a time. Pause to let the children experience the difference. When all is silent, make a comment about the peace and quiet. Talk about what just happened. Some children may have been able to handle the commotion. They may be used to it. Introduce each source again, but one at a time. How is the experience different? What do we mean when we say "peace and quiet"? Ask the children for examples of times when a parent has stopped the "noise." What were the reasons? How was it done?

Scripture Words and Worship

Use a large globe or inflated ball to represent the world. Give each child a cutout of a person. Have rolled tape or double-sided tape ready. Talk about the world. People live all over the world. Let the children take turns sticking their person wherever they want on the globe. Talk about all the places where people live. Talk about happy people. What happens when people don't get along? God wants us to be kind to one another and live happy, peaceful lives. We know this because the angels told us long ago. Introduce the scripture from Luke.

Live and Learn

The text from Romans 13:11–14 deals with the laws of the land. The Isaiah 2:1–5 scripture talks about a time when swords will be beaten into plowshares. People in biblical times were looking for peace. It is hard for children to understand political law or paying taxes, but they can understand obeying the one in charge. Use a suitcase and props to help Mary and Joseph pack for their trip.

Use a cat and a dog puppet or stuffed toy to demonstrate animals that get along and animals that don't. How do pets behave when they both want the same thing? How can you keep pets from fighting? Even when each has their own food bowl and gets equal attention from family members,

sometimes spats still break out. They get along because someone tells them to get along, but they don't always like it. Sometimes it doesn't seem fair.

Mary and Joseph

Up and at 'Em

Pack and move items. Use books, blocks, toys, or other objects. Identify a location to move the things and have the children work together to transfer everything to that spot. Then pick another place and repeat the activity. Talk about how the children complete the task. Do they work together? Does everyone help? Is one job harder than another? How long would it take to do the job alone?

Sense-ations

Have a picnic. Pack the snack for the day, and let the children help. Walk to another location to eat. How easy is it to move drinks, food, cups, plates, and napkins? How is it different from eating at home?

Moving Music

- "This Is the Way" (we pack our things, walk down the road, sleep for the night...on our way to Bethlehem.)
- "Siyahamb' ekukhaneyn, kwenkhos" (We Are Marching in the Light of God) *NS 46*

Story Talking

Talk about times the children have traveled or taken a trip, perhaps to reunion. What preparations were involved? How is life different when traveling (sitting in the car for hours instead of roaming the house and playing)? What do they do to pass the time in the car? What happens when siblings squabble?

Who takes care of the house while they are gone? What happens to the pets? How do you know what clothes you will need? Why did you go?

What things help make a trip peaceful? Talk about times the children have been less than peaceful. What were the causes? How were the problems resolved? What does behavior have to do with peace?

Mary and Joseph

People felt the same way long ago. They liked having their own things. They liked having a home and food and time to do what they wanted to. Mary and Joseph were two people like that. They lived in the village of Nazareth. Joseph was building a house for them. Mary was making things to use inside the house.

But all was not peaceful where they lived. People who came from another country bossed them around. They told Mary and Joseph to give part of what they had to the people who ran the country. Mary and Joseph had no choice. They had to do what they were told. So did the other people in their village.

Mary was worried. Now a new rule had been made. Not only did people have to pay taxes, but they had to go to another town to do it. Mary and Joseph were told to go to Bethlehem. Bethlehem was a long, long way away. Mary and Joseph would have to walk and walk. They would have to sleep somewhere else at night. Mary and Joseph weren't happy about having to make this long trip.

But they wanted things to be peaceful. So Mary and Joseph obeyed. They got ready for the trip. They gathered food they would need to eat. They packed clothing they would need to wear. Mary had to pack extra things. She was going to have a baby soon. She would need things to help take care of the baby.

It took a lot of work to get everything ready. Mary and Joseph were very tired when it was time to leave. But they knew God wanted things to be peaceful. It was important to obey the rules. When morning came, they would start on their trip.



There We Go

Fold paper accordion-style, and use the simple outline to make a chain of people for each child. (Fold one individual in half and place the folded side on the fold of paper to be cut.) Create a round card to represent the world. Place the people inside, with one end of the line attached to the inside of the card. Fold the people so the card can be closed. Print "Peace on Earth" on the front of the card. Let the children play and share the card with family.

