

Day 5—Be Peace: Live Peace

Welcome Kids!

By this last day, kids should know each other well. Today, gather in a circle and have kids share a prayer for the child on their left. They should include the child's name and a special blessing of caring and sharing peace. This can be a very tender time, so you may wish to create a special worship setting: soft music, candles, and a reverent and caring spirit. You may wish to start the prayers as an example, praying for another adult and allowing the children to pray for each other.

A “Live Peace” Story

Share the story (also used in worship) *Jerusalem Sky* by Mark Podwal (Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2005), ISBN 038574689X.. Under one big sky, the city of Jerusalem encompasses three world religions: the Jews, the Christians, and the Muslims. This beautiful book of poetry and watercolor shows how these three religions connect and hold things in common under God's big, blue Jerusalem sky. This book will help reinforce the idea that to share the peace of Jesus we need to “be and live” peace and look for connections, not divisions. Discuss:

1. Jerusalem is called the “city of peace.” Is it the city of peace when the people who live there fight over religious beliefs?
2. How can the people of Jerusalem come together as friends?
3. How is “owning” Jerusalem like trying to own the sky? Who owns the sky?

Share the Peace of Jesus: Peace Lights

Read today's scripture, a parable from Luke 11:36 NRSV adapted:

“If your whole body is full of light, it will be like a lamp that gives you light with its rays.”

Have kids copy this scripture into their books.

Make a “constellation” picture to show the world the light that you have to share. Notice the night lights, the stars in the sky, from the book *Jerusalem Sky* and from other books about constellations. Constellations are images that groups of stars suggest. There are constellations that form a “big dipper,” a “little dipper,” “a scorpion,” “an archer,” “a bear,” and others. Ask kids: “If you want to symbolize who you are, what image would you choose to shine your light through? Would it be a peace symbol? a cross? two hands together? a heart?”

1. Give kids dark construction paper to draw their constellation on. Use heavy lines with white, wax crayons or “gel” colored pencils. Symbols should be clear, showing the basic shape, like true constellations. As kids work, discuss what symbols they have chosen to share their light with.
2. Kids can place large dots where the stars would be located—at each corner of their symbol.
3. From the back of the paper, using a sharp pencil, kids can carefully punch holes to show where the stars are. They should make them large enough that a light can visibly shine through them.
4. Form the paper by pulling short ends together. Tape paper into a cylinder.

5. Put the cylinder on top of another piece of dark paper. Trace on the paper around the circular opening of the cylinder. Remove the cylinder, and draw four tabs on the edge of the circle to attach it to the cylinder.
6. Cut this tabbed circle out, fold the tabs down, and tape or glue them to the inside of the cylinder.
7. Turn off the lights in the room. Give each kid a flashlight, and have them shine their flashlight through the cylinder. Kids can show their constellations to the rest of the class.
8. Discuss under the light of their constellations: What does your constellation mean? How will you share your light when you get home from reunion?

“Be Peace: Live Peace” Games

Choose one or all of these teamwork games to practice living peace. Games are from *Go With Peace* by Kelly Guinan (Blair, NE: Kind Regards, LLC, 2005), ISBN 0-9719279-2-8, pages 102—“Pass the Peace”; 104—“The Cereal Dilemma”; and 108—“Land Skis Away.”

Pass the Peace—Give each kid a square of paper and a straw. Kids are to try to pass the “peace” of paper to one another without using their hands. They may blow the paper through the straw and across a table to the other person. They may suck on the straw to hold the paper on the end of the straw—to pass it. Using their hands, they may fold the straw into chopsticks—to grab the paper with. (Kids may do these activities in teams, forming lines, for competition.)

The Cereal Dilemma—Pair kids in teams of two, and give them two bowls of cereal and two spoons. Tape or tie rigid sticks, like a paint-stirring stick or long ruler, to each of their arms. The goal is for each to eat their bowl of cereal without putting their face in it or breaking their sticks. See how the two resolve their problem.

Land Skis Away—Before class, staple 3 strips (3 to 4 foot in length) of 2- or 3-inch-wide elastic to six foot boards (2" x 4" x 6') creating skis that three kids can put their feet into. Each team of three kids needs two boards. Have kids insert their feet under the elastic strips, and move together around the room (without falling).

After all of these activities, discuss:

1. How did you work together in each game?
2. What happened when you didn't work together?
3. Would it have been easier to do these tasks by yourself?
4. What was the advantage of having a partner to do these with?
5. What did you enjoy most about these activities?

Peace Prayers

Gather kids around a table. Put a mixture of various colors of candy (M&Ms work well) in a small bowl, muffin cup, or on a napkin for each child. Create slips of paper that match the colors of the candy, and put them in the center of the table. Ask the first child to pick whatever color of candy they

wish. When they pick it up, they are to also pick up the slip of paper that matches, and read what they are to pray for. At the same time, everyone around the table can eat a colored candy that matches. Prepare as many slips of paper (and colors) as there are children. When all are finished praying, they may finish their snack. (If you want a more healthful snack, have items like grapes, cherries, nuts, raisins, and other items in their bowls with matching colored papers.)

Purple—Pray for your congregation.

Red—Pray for the church in the world.

Blue—Pray about something that concerns you about your church.

Yellow—Praise Jesus and God.

Green—Pray for the earth and what you can do for it.

Orange—Pray for people that need your help.

Brown—Pray for your town, neighborhood, and school.