

Sharing Services and Vignettes

Introduction

Sharing the peace of Christ is an invitation for us to explore how we have experienced Christ's peace and also how we have shared that peace with others. The theme suggestions for this material involve an exploration of the multiple dimensions of what is involved in sharing Christ's peace. Sharing Christ's peace is important for the community and can be explored by coming together in a time of prayer and testimony. All persons should be encouraged to participate regardless of age. Sharing services can be a blessing to the community. A suggested order of worship for the service follows:

1. Gathering and meditative music
2. Short vignette to introduce the theme
3. Welcome and opening hymn
4. Opening prayer
5. Theme talk
6. Seasons of prayer/testimony (hymns interspersed)
7. Closing hymn
8. Sending forth/prayer

Session 1: Going Deeper

Going out deeper into the waters did not seem like something Peter wanted to do. But when challenged by Jesus, he put out into deep waters. His catch was so large it was almost too hard to secure. When we explore what the peace of Christ means for us as disciples, we will be challenged to recast our nets, go out deeper, and be prepared for the unknown. The challenge today is to not only explore where we have been, but also where we need to go. We explore in order to obtain a deeper understanding of the peace of Christ.

Scriptures: Luke 5:1–11

Matthew 7:24–25

Matthew, chapters 5 through 7

Psalms 46:10

Doctrine and Covenants 158:11c

Questions to Consider

What thoughts come to mind when you hear the phrase “Peace of Christ”?

How have you experienced this peace?

What actions will help you go deeper and explore the peace of Christ?

How can we as community share the peace of Christ?

Hymn Suggestions

HS 48, 56, 62

SP 3, 31

NS 3, 40, 47

R-19

Session 2: Seek the Kingdom

Do you remember a time when you lost something and desperately tried to find it? In the fifteenth chapter of Luke such a story is shared about an individual with ten coins who loses one. The joy that is exhibited when the lost coin is found is equated with God's rejoicing when one sinner repents. As we explore the peace of Christ, our search will inevitably lead to seeking the peaceable kingdom. Perhaps our kingdom building would take on a different energy if we were "desperately" seeking it. In Luke 4:18–22, Jesus was announcing his purpose. It included teaching us about building God's kingdom. Perhaps kingdom building is foundational to understanding the concept of Christ's peace.

Scriptures: Luke 4:18–19

Luke 15:8–10

John 3:16

Doctrine and Covenants 36:2h–i, 128:8

Psalm 145:8–12

Questions to Consider

What images or ideas do you think of when confronted with the words "seek the kingdom"?

In our daily living we are promised the Spirit's presence. How does this promise support your kingdom-building efforts?

How have you experienced seeking the kingdom?

What are some important tasks that need to be addressed when attempting to help build the kingdom?

What can you do?

Hymn Suggestions

HS 64, 312, 316, 317, 319

SP 22

NS 11, 26, 44, 51

Session 3: Break Down Walls

The second chapter of Ephesians (Ephesians 2:17–22) presents imagery of Christ as a deconstructor of walls or barriers between people. Christ's sacrifice on the cross is suggested as the gift that broke down the dividing walls. In following the Prince of Peace, we are challenged to model the life and ministry of Christ. We are urged to address issues of injustice—ways and means that people are marginalized and treated of lesser value. Our challenge is to reach out, to break down walls, real or perceived, and share the peace of Christ—a peace that is available in everyone's life journey.

Scriptures: Mark 15:37–38

Acts 2:42–47

II Corinthians 5:18–20

Ephesians 2:17–22

Galatians 3:27–28

Doctrine and Covenants 162:4b, 6b

Mosiah 2:32

Questions to Consider

- What are some of the walls you have constructed? How can Jesus Christ help you tear down these walls?
- How do we as a community overcome fears and obstacles that divide us?
- What is your individual commitment to breaking down walls?
- When the walls are torn down, how does the peace of Christ feel?
- How have you experienced the peace of Christ?

Hymn Suggestions

HS 66, 74, 77, 143, 497
SP 11
NS 35, 38

Session 4: A Willing Yes

It was a simple act—a small child sharing his fish and bread with the disciples and Jesus. The multitude is fed. It went from a small lunch and a willing yes to the miracle of 5,000 people being fed. As community, a willing yes to following the Prince of Peace and building the kingdom are important. How we respond in our weariness, uncertainty, and fear is a big factor in how discipleship and stewardship are lived out. There are times when we need to say no, but most of the time the response of a disciple is a willing yes. How will you respond?

Scriptures: Matthew 6:33

Matthew 20:1–16
John 6:1–13
Psalm 90:1–2, 14–17

Questions to Consider

- When has your willing yes helped to “feed” the masses?
- Why are we hesitant sometimes in sharing our willing yes and sharing generously?
- What keeps us from expressing a willing yes?
- When have you felt particularly blessed by saying yes and following Christ?

Hymn Suggestions

HS 49, 75, 421
NS 17, 25, 32, 33
R-10, *R*-16

Session 5: Be Peace

The sending of the seventy found in Luke 10:1–9 is a wonderful example of “being” the peace of Christ. They were sent without purse or bag or sandals. Their ministry focused on being with the people. This included eating with them, healing them, and telling them about the kingdom of God. Their ministry could be reduced to the words: eat, heal, and speak. Being peace is a practical

engagement of making oneself available to share the good news, and heal and feed those who have needs. The challenge to be peace is another aspect of sharing Christ's peace. How will you be peace?

Scriptures: Mark 1:4–44
Luke 10:1–9

Questions to Consider

- How will you be peace in relationships with others?
- How will you be peace in serving the needs of others?
- How will you be peace in proclaiming the gospel to others?
- When have others done this for you?
- What people have been models of being peace in your life?

Hymn Suggestions

“Peace of Jesus” *Reunion Text*
HS 72, 129, 373
SP 1
NS 7, 12, 18, 22, 43
R-11, *R*-18

Vignette: Taking the Plunge...Going Deeper (Day 1)

Setting: Dock area, swim fins, masks, and replicas of scuba tanks

Characters: Two

ONE: So what's this about? You bring me out here for what you say is a little swim, and now you're telling me I'm going to have to put on all this equipment.

TWO: What do you mean? I told you we were going swimming. What's the problem?

ONE: Well. This seems like our camping adventure all over again. You remember that don't you? I wanted to camp at the Ramada, but NO, you wanted to get outdoors and experience “nature.”

TWO: Yes, but you had fun and learned a lot. So why should this be any different?

ONE: I'll tell you why this should be different. Swimming is a swimsuit and a little water; that's it. It's not all this equipment. I mean, look at that! Is that an oxygen tank? I mean it sort of resembles the propane tank on my barbeque grill. You know, as a matter of fact, a barbeque sounds a lot better than swimming right now. What do you say?

TWO: I don't think so. We're here and we're going diving. And, yes, it is an oxygen tank. You'll need that when we go out to the deep water.

ONE: Whoa sailor—who said anything about deep water? I'm staying up here by the shore so I can touch the bottom. I'm not going way out there. There could be sharks.

TWO: (*Mimics the Jaws movie theme music*) You have got to be kidding me. What do you expect to see or experience this close to shore? I guess you could collect seashells and sand dollars, and throw starfish back into the ocean. But won't that get boring?

ONE: No, I like picking up seashells, sand dollars, and making a difference in the lives of starfish.

TWO: OK, suit yourself. I'm going, so I will see you later.

ONE: What, you're leaving me here? You can't do that.

TWO: I can't do what?

ONE: Leave me here while you go swimming or whatever you call it.

TWO: But I have to. I just can't stay here and collect seashells, and be content doing that. I need to go out there into the deeper water to see the animals that live in the shells, to see live sand dollars, and touch and feel what this undersea world is about. I need to go deeper so I can understand more about the seashells that wind up here on the shore.

ONE: (*Interrupts*) and the sand dollars and the starfish. OK, I get it. But how long are you going to be gone?

TWO: Oh, about an hour.

ONE: So how far out are you going?

TWO: Three or four hundred feet. Why are you so curious?

ONE: Oh, I don't want to know. I guess I don't want to be alone. But the deep water scares me.

TWO: The deeper water is pretty cool to experience, but I guess it can be a little scary.

ONE: Yeah, a little like junior high swim class.

TWO: What do you mean?

ONE: Well, in junior high swim class, once we learned our swim strokes, we had to go to the deep water. Only I couldn't because it was scary to me. So I was called names like Mud Puppy and Shallow Hal because I wouldn't go to the deep water. So when you

asked me to come with you, I was hesitant in the first place, because swimming doesn't exactly bring up fond memories.

TWO: I'm really sorry you went through all that. How about if we just start slow and not go deep to start with, but prepare you for going deep? Would that be OK?

ONE: I guess, but you know they have a pool at the Ramada?

TWO: Yeah right. Say, let's get this stuff on OK?

ONE: OK.

TWO: Now, where did I put that shark repellent?

ONE: Oh you are funny, aren't you?

Both exit.

Vignette: Where's the Treasure? (Day 2)

Setting: Dock area, swim fins, masks, replicas of scuba tanks, and a treasure map

Characters: Two

TWO: You really did well yesterday. I can't believe you were scared. You acted like an old pro.

ONE: (*Hiding treasure map behind back*) Having the oxygen was a big part of it. It's different going out into the deep water when you know you're going to be able to breathe.

TWO: Certainly is. Hey, what's that you have behind your back?

ONE: Oh nothing.

TWO: Oh, come on. What is it? You can show me.

ONE: Well OK, but don't make too much noise. I don't want anyone else to see this.
(*shows map*)

TWO: A treasure map. Well, well. Trying to hide the map from me? I guess you were going to keep the treasure for yourself.

ONE: No, I was cutting you in, say 20 percent?

TWO: Gee thanks. Have you looked at this map closely?

ONE: Not yet, I just bought it.

TWO: Let me guess, you bought it from a guy by the name of Paulo, right?

ONE: Yeah, how'd you know?

TWO: Paulo's always selling maps to the tourists. You see he never has to look for treasure because the tourists *are* his treasure. So did you buy a bridge too?

ONE: No, I didn't buy a bridge. So you're saying there is no treasure?

TWO: No, not at all. There is treasure, but you won't find it on that map.

ONE: You're losing me. You'd better explain.

TWO: Sure, I'll try not to go too fast so you can understand.

ONE: Awfully kind of you.

TWO: I figure it's the least I can do. Remember how you said you like the shore where you can walk along and pick up shells, sand dollars, and the occasional starfish?

ONE: Yeah, so what's that got to do with treasure?

TWO: Well, for you those things were treasure. But for me, I thought I had to go out to deeper water to find the things that I really like—my treasure, if you get what I mean.

ONE: I think I do. Treasure isn't always about riches and valuable things, but more about the things that interest us. So it might be the shells and the starfish. But for you, it's going out to the deep. Is that what you mean?

TWO: Exactly. Sometimes the treasure is just appreciating where we are and experiencing it. It can be on the shore or out in the deep. Where is it for you?

ONE: I guess it's changed a little since yesterday. I understand that there is some pretty neat stuff out there, and I'd like seeing that. But I also like the shore. So I guess where I am, the treasure is. Does that make sense?

TWO: Sure. So you want to go out deeper?

ONE: Can we tomorrow? I'm still treasuring the shallows an awful lot.

TWO: I guess. By the way, do you want to buy a bridge?

ONE: What?

TWO: Well, the first time you met Paulo, you bought the map. I bought the bridge.

ONE: You didn't?

TWO: Yup.

ONE: I don't feel so bad now.

Both exit

Vignette: "Something There Is That Doesn't Love" a Reef (Day 3)

Setting: Dock area, swim fins, masks, replicas of scuba tanks, and a hammer.

Characters: Two

TWO: Yesterday a treasure map; today a hammer. This ought to be good.

ONE: I thought I'd go diving and knock some of that stuff off the rocks and take it home.

TWO: Are you nuts? You can't do that.

ONE: And why not?

TWO: Do you know what that stuff is that you want to knock off the rocks?

ONE: Well, no, but listen, there's tons of it, so no one will miss a little of it.

TWO: That's not the point. Oh gees. Let me see if I can explain.

ONE: OK, but make it quick. I've got places to go, people to see, and stuff to hammer.

TWO: I think I've created a monster.

ONE: Listen, you were the one that told me to go deeper. So I did. I saw some things I liked. So now I'm going to take some back with me.

TWO: Oh my, this could take a while. OK. To start with, that stuff you want to hammer away at is a coral reef. It's part of the ocean ecosystem. It's a living, organic, dynamic thing. If people start going in and chipping away a piece here and a piece there, before you know it, no reef.

ONE: Oh come on, I don't think there is much risk of that happening.

TWO: Let me give it another shot. A coral reef exists because there is gentle tidal movement that allows a certain environment to be created. If there was more tidal movement, the reef wouldn't exist. Think of it sort of as a wall. On one side of the reef

the tide movement is a little gentler allowing fish and other creatures to thrive and exist in a specific ecosystem. On the other side of the reef, there's more tidal movement, and the water is deeper and the coral reef can't exist. So if you start chipping away at the reef, you will start affecting the whole entire ocean ecosystem. Can you live with that guilt?

ONE: I guess not. Thanks for explaining it to me. Anyway, I guess it would have been a little hard to hammer away in the ocean.

TWO: Yeah, if it hadn't been for you destroying the ecosystem, it would have been pretty entertaining to watch.

ONE: Real funny.

TWO: Thanks, but you have made me think about the reef a little differently.

ONE: How so?

TWO: The reef is a wall, and we certainly don't want to destroy it. But there are some walls that *aren't* good, and we need to hammer away at them.

ONE: Oh man, you're getting deep, but go ahead.

TWO: It's sort of like when you were learning to swim and your so-called friends or classmates made fun of you. We often construct walls to protect ourselves from getting hurt. But we really should try to tear these walls down, because they separate us.

ONE: Yeah, I guess you're right. But sometimes we hurt so much or have hurt others so much that the walls are hard to break down.

TWO: Yeah, but that certainly doesn't mean we shouldn't try.

ONE: You're right. So what do you say we go diving?

TWO: Sure.

ONE: Oh and by the way, thanks for the environmental lesson today. You sure did hammer that home.

TWO: Ouch.

Both exit

Vignette: What Am I Getting Roped Into? (Day 4)

Setting: Dock area, swim fins, masks, replicas of scuba tanks, and some sailcloth
Characters: Two

ONE: Hey, I really have enjoyed this diving thing, but I really would like to try something different today.

TWO: What would that be?

ONE: That parasailing thing looks pretty cool. I think I'd like to do that.

TWO: You're nuts. Let me get this straight—the first day we were here you wanted to swim in the shallows, and now you want to fly way up there. I can't believe you.

ONE: I know it is the strangest thing, but it just looks fun. I think I'm gonna do that.

TWO: Well, you go ahead. I'm staying here.

ONE: What do you mean?

TWO: I'm not going. I don't want to.

ONE: You're scared aren't you?

TWO: Am not. I just don't want to go.

ONE: Suit yourself. I'm out of here.

TWO: What, you're leaving me here? You can't do that.

ONE: I can't do what?

TWO: Leave me here while you go off parasailing.

ONE: Listen, earlier in the week you challenged me to go deeper and I did. So now I want to go higher. I guess for me that's sort of deeper in reverse. Does that make sense?

TWO: Yeah it does, and it scares me that you make so much sense.

ONE: So, let's go.

TWO: I can't.

ONE: Why not?

TWO: Well, if you really must know, I'm scared. And the silly thing is it involves a junior high story.

ONE: Well, go ahead; tell me what happened.

TWO: Promise you won't laugh?

ONE: Sure.

TWO: Well, in junior high gym class we had to see how fast we could climb the rope. They quit timing me, because I couldn't climb; I was scared of heights. So I was called names like Slug and Groundhog, because I couldn't climb the rope.

ONE: I'm really sorry you went through all that. How about if we can see if we can parasail and not go so high? You know, just like going deep lets you see different things, so does flying. The perspective is different. So what do you say? Yes?

TWO: It's more of a hesitant yes, not a willing yes.

ONE: Great, let's go.

TWO: OK. You know, I can't believe how you have helped me today.

ONE: I know, sometimes I surprise myself. Care for a Dramamine?

ONE: Thanks.

Both exit

Vignette: To Be...or Not to Be (Day 5)

Setting: Two Chairs

Characters: Two

ONE: I don't believe I've ever seen anyone get that pale or that air sick so fast. You gave a whole new meaning to the term motion sickness.

TWO: Thanks a lot! I sure didn't feel good to start off, but once I got the hang of it (no pun intended), parasailing was OK.

ONE: Yeah, it was a great experience. We'll have to come back and try it again next time we're here.

TWO: But right now we need to pack up and go back to the real world.

ONE: What do you mean, the real world?

TWO: Oh, come on, it's not everyday you go scuba diving or parasailing. This is sort of an artificial experience.

ONE: Oh no. I feel a lesson coming on. This is either going to be real deep or real high. I don't know which.

TWO: OK, listen. The past week we learned about going deeper, about searching, about breaking down walls, and about saying yes. Those things aren't just things we do here. We do them everywhere. That is the real world, and we are challenged to participate and engage with others.

ONE: Can you tell me the point of your soliloquy? I really would like to get out of here and start for home.

TWO: Let me see if I can make it easier. We need to be.

ONE: What?

TWO: We need to be.

ONE: Wait a second, I don't have to be, I already am. So what's the point?

TWO: The point is that we can exist and ignore the fact that we have to be—to be sensitive to others and the things that separate us, to be builders.

ONE: Builders of what?

TWO: A peaceable kingdom.

ONE: And how do we do that?

TWO: By going deeper and exploring the peace of Christ. That's the point. We have to be peace.

ONE: I was right; that was deep. But it was wide, too.

TWO: What do you mean?

ONE: Wide, you know, broad. It took you a long, long, long time to get to the focus for the week.

TWO: I know, but it was worth it, wasn't it?

ONE: I guess, but we better get packing now.

TWO: Yeah, I guess you're right. By the way, I'm still trying to sell a bridge. Is that something I can "rope you into", or would you rather I "let it be"?

ONE: Have you been saving that up all week?

TWO: Yeah, pretty impressive, huh?

ONE: Impressive, yes—deep, no. Let's go.

Both exit