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Introduction

The Children’s Activity Guide is for ages 4-11. Recognizing the range of ages and learning styles, instructors are encouraged to adapt activities according to age-appropriate needs and abilities. This guide is designed for use in different settings. For full-inclusion classes, instructors can select from the craft, music, recreation, and snack recommendations to enhance each lesson based on time of session and setting. For rotation schedules, recommendations for lessons, crafts, music, recreation, and snacks are provided for instructors of each subject.

If teaching a multiage class, remember younger children look to older children as models, and want to be engaged with them in challenging activities. Older children like to share their skills with younger children. All understand faith through action and experience and want to learn the meaning of church life. You can, on occasion, group younger or older children together for tasks, bringing everyone together. Specific directions for leaders are in italic.

LESSONS
Lessons are designed for 20-30 minute sessions incorporating daily themes and Doctrine and Covenants 156:5 with interactive learning experiences. God breathes new life into the church and the world as children of all ages receive, embody, and share the peace of Jesus Christ.

CRAFTS AND PROJECTS
Crafts give children the opportunity to create a tangible reminder of the lesson’s focus. Creating is more important than the final project. This process also can be an opportunity for deeper discussions about the lesson focus. Be mindful of opportunities to bring the theme into craft time.

MUSIC
Hymn and song suggestions are provided to accompany each lesson. For each theme there is a selection from Community of Christ Sings as well as additional song suggestions. Hymns and songs from Community of Christ Sings cannot be copied without a license. Contact Community of Christ’s office of general counsel for more information if you wish to make copies from Community of Christ Sings. Printed music included in this activity guide may be copied as needed.

Accompaniment tracks for hymns can be found on the Community of Christ Sings audio recording thumb drive (UPC 680121003823) available through Herald House. Encourage motions or sign language, incorporate movement and dance, or include rhythm instruments (purchased or created from recycled materials). Recordings of original songs are available at cofchrist.org/reunion-resources-2018.

RECREATION
A variety of cooperative games and activities are provided to reinforce the lesson focus. Games help children practice skills of cooperation and peacebuilding. Each child is uniquely abled. Upholding the Worth of All Persons, instructors are encouraged to adapt games and activities by simplifying or adding more complex layers based on children’s ages and abilities. It is important to remember participation and cooperation are more important than competition!

HEALTHY SNACKS
Model “healthy relationships with...the earth” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:2b) by providing healthy snacks rather than processed, high-sugar, high-fat, and preservative-filled foods. As much as possible, serve snacks using reusable or paper plates and cups, preferably compostable or containing recycled content. If possible, allow time for children to help with preparing, serving, and cleaning up snacks. Be aware of food allergies and avoid such foods for all children. An allergic child can have a severe reaction simply through smell or touch.
LESSON FOCUS
Pursue peace, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a
John 20:21-22 NRSV

OBJECTIVES
The learners will...

• learn about the Temple as a symbol of peace.
• engage in practices of peace.

SUPPLIES
• Image of Community of Christ Temple in Independence, MO, USA; paper and pens or pencils
• Objects (or images, see p. 47) from nature that reveal a spiral pattern
• First Temple building block
• Items for peace stations:
  Building blocks or pieces of cardstock cut into different shapes; large paper or structure to divide space between two people
  Several cards with examples of conflict
  Puppet theater and puppets (optional)

BREATHE PEACE

LESSON 1

• Copies of Temple worksheet, one per child, and markers or crayons
  Prior to the lesson, prepare Temple building blocks and Peace Stations.

Use the Temple Building Blocks and Temple Worksheets in whatever way fits the age and needs of your students for each lesson. You may choose to enlarge the Temple Building Blocks to create a large Temple image in the class space. You may choose to have students color and cut out (or precut) the segments of the Temple Worksheet and glue on colored paper to create their own Temple poster.

Gather
Welcome the children as they enter the space and have them sit in a circle. Go around the circle and have each child complete the following sentence: “My name is _______________ and peace to me (choose a sense: looks, sounds, smells, feels) like _____________________.

Engage AND Respond
SHOW: An image of the Temple in Independence, MO, USA found on p 29.
SAY: The Temple is a symbol that reminds us of God’s vision of shalom (peace and wholeness) for all creation. As followers of Jesus, we share the peace of Jesus Christ with the world and our friends and family.

SHOW: Objects or images of spiral patterns found in nature. Ask what they think the shape of the building looks like, and why they think that shape was chosen. Ask if they have been to the Temple. If so, what was it like? What did they see? What did they learn? If they have not been to the Temple, ask what questions they have about the Temple’s design or purpose. Post the Temple image on the wall or on a poster.

SAY: The purpose of the Temple is described in one of our books of scripture, Doctrine and Covenants 156:5. Each day we will learn about one of the purposes of the Temple.

READ: The verse in the first Temple building block. Attach the building block to the wall or a poster.

The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation (mending our problems) and for healing our spirits.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a (adapted)

TALK: About the actions listed here. Have older children describe their understanding of each and give examples of what they have done or seen. Have younger children act out what you describe.

• Pursue peace (work for peace, practice peace)
• Reconciliation (mending problems or damaged relationships, communicating feelings in a healthy way)
• Healing our spirits (practicing peace for me, receiving God’s peace and love)

SAY: We are going to practice some ways to help us pursue peace.

Introduce the peace stations, adapted from the Children’s Peace Pavilion. The stations are designed to help children practice peace with others. Adapt and have the children interact with stations according to the age, needs, and number of children in the class.

STATION 1: Communication Station

Practicing peace requires good communication skills. Form pairs and give each pair identical building blocks or pieces of paper cut into different shapes and a divider. Each pair will sit facing the divider with their set of blocks or paper pieces. One will form a structure or pattern, then describe it to their partner to build or arrange as described. This must be done without seeing one another’s blocks or pieces. It is important to communicate with kindness and encourage your partner to be successful.

STATION 2: Stop. Think. Peace.

Stop. Think. Peace. is a strategy for practicing peace when there is a conflict. Have two people draw a conflict card (each card containing an example) and act out the conflict. At some point during the conflict, those who are not acting will say “Stop” (actors pause), “Think” (everyone talk about ways to resolve the conflict), “Peace” (act out a peaceful solution). Allow everyone an opportunity to act out a conflict example. Optional: If possible, use puppets for this station.

Gather children around a table and invite them to share what they learned about practicing peace during the peace stations. Give each one a Temple worksheet. Ask a child to read John 20:21-22.

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

SAY: Jesus is our example of peace. He breathed peace to his disciples and invited them to share peace with others. Each of us can practice peace every day! In the first building block of the Temple, write or draw what you will do today to practice or pursue peace. (Younger children can color their building block as you talk about ways to practice peace.)

Save the worksheets to use each day. Invite one child to close with a prayer.

Lesson 1: Breathe Peace—7
Lesson 2

Live Witness

Lesson Focus
Strengthen faith and prepare for witness

Focus Scriptures
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5b
Matthew 28:19-20 (adapted)

Objectives
The learners will...
• understand the meaning of faith and witness.
• find creative ways to witness for Christ’s peace.

Supplies
• Images from advertisements or brand logos (cut from magazines or printed from the Internet)
• Second Temple building block
• Paper (newsprint, poster paper, or construction paper)
• Markers or paint
• Copies of Temple worksheet (from previous lesson) and markers or crayons

Gather
Welcome the children by name as they gather and have them sit in a circle. Go around the circle and have each child tell how they practiced peace in the time between class sessions.

Optional Gathering Activity: As children enter, attach a brand image or logo to the back of their shirt. As they greet each member of the class (great opportunity for practicing names), they can ask one yes-or-no question about their logo to try to determine what they are “advertising.”

Show: The different images from advertisements or brand logos. Ask the children if they can identify the product or brand by the advertisement or logo.

Ask: What do you think of, or how do you feel, when you see the image or logo? Does the image make you want the product or brand? Make a list of the different ways and places you see advertisements (TV, magazines, billboards, sporting events, radio). Ask children if they can sing an advertisement jingle. You might need to give them a prompt, such as “Nationwide is on your side,” or any local, familiar jingle.
SAY: Advertisements are created to help people sell products or services. They are designed to catch your attention and give you as much information as possible in a short amount of time. What does a personal advertisement look like? How do we show others in a short amount of time who we are and what we believe? (By what we say, how we act, how we treat others.)

Engage AND Respond

ASK: The children to describe what the Temple stands for (a symbol of what we share with the world and our family and friends). Read together the verse from the first building block, then read the verse on the second building block. Attach the second building block as it fits with the first from the previous lesson.

The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation (mending our problems) and for healing our spirits. It is to strengthen our faith (our belief and trust in God) and witness (how we show we follow Jesus Christ).

— Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a-b (adapted)

ASK: What are ways we strengthen our faith? (By praying, going to church camps, worship, Sunday school, talking with others, reading.) Who helps you strengthen your belief and trust in God?

SAY: We witness for Jesus Christ through words and actions of kindness and respect. Our belief and trust in God shines in the way we care for ourselves, others, and the Earth. Our witness for Jesus Christ is not just an advertisement; it is the way we live and love and share. How do you live your witness for Jesus? How do you see others living their witness for Jesus?

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN: Have children trace around one another’s bodies while, taking turns, they lie down on newsprint. If newsprint is not available, this can be done on a concrete surface using sidewalk chalk. Have them add clothes and features that look like them. When their person is complete, have them draw on their bodies or describe ways they can witness with their hands (pick up litter), hearts (hug someone who is sad), words (talk to someone who is alone or tell someone special you love them), and actions (stand up for someone who is being bullied).

FOR OLDER CHILDREN: Form groups of two or three. Assign each group an Enduring Principle. Each group will create an advertisement that expresses how they live the Enduring Principle as their witness for Jesus Christ. This can be a poster (billboard), a commercial (acted out), or a jingle (song). Encourage creativity! Share with the larger group.

Send AND Bless

Gather children around a table and give them the Temple worksheet from the previous lesson. Ask a child to read these words adapted from Matthew 28:19-20.

Go! Make disciples everywhere. Share everything I taught you. And remember, I am with you always.

SAY: Jesus invites all disciples to live and share his love and peace. We can have courage in our witness because Jesus promises to always be with us through the Holy Spirit and through the community of disciples. In the second building block of the Temple, write or draw what you will do today to live your witness for Jesus Christ. Younger children can color their building block as you talk about ways to live witness for Jesus.

Save the worksheets to use each day. Invite one child to close with a prayer.
Lesson Focus
Wholeness of body, mind, and spirit

Focus Scriptures
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5c, 163:2b (adapted)

Objectives
The learners will...
• understand wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.
• discover ways to practice wholeness for body, mind, and spirit.

Supplies
• Ball of yarn or string
• Third Temple building block
• Items or pictures that represent whole or healthy bodies, minds, and spirits (such as a healthy food item, exercise equipment, item from nature, book, Bible, musical instrument); one per person, if possible
• I Am Peace: A Book of Mindfulness by Susan Verde
• Copies of Temple worksheet (from previous lessons) and markers or crayons

Gather
Welcome the children by name as they gather and have them sit in a circle. Share with the class how you lived your witness for Jesus in the time between class sessions. Then, holding the end of the yarn or string, toss the ball of yarn or string to one of the students. Say their name and invite them to share how they lived their witness for Jesus in the time between class sessions. They will hold the yarn or string, say the name of another child, and toss them the ball of yarn or string. As each child receives the yarn or string, they will share their witness before tossing to another child.

After each child has an opportunity to share, point out the “web of witness” created by the group. Ask the children what they think it represents. If necessary, help guide discussion about how our faith in God and witness for Jesus Christ connects us in loving community. Also, each person’s witness is strengthened by the witness of the whole group.

If you do not have access to yarn or string, go around the circle and have each child tell how they lived their witness for Jesus in the time between class sessions.
Lesson 3: Embody Wholeness

Engage AND Respond

REVIEW: The purposes of the Temple (a symbol of what we share with the world and our family and friends) by reading together the verses from the first two building blocks. Read the verse on the third building block, then attach it as it fits with the first two building blocks from previous lessons.

The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation (mending our problems) and for healing our spirits. It is to strengthen our faith (our belief and trust in God) and witness (how we show we follow Jesus Christ). It will have ministries to help one’s body, mind, and spirit become whole.

— Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a-c (adapted)

SAY: Ministries are ways disciples who follow Jesus Christ help individuals, congregations, communities, and the world. Children of all ages can provide ministry to help bodies, minds, and spirits become whole.

ASK:

What are ways we help our bodies become whole? (Get exercise, enough rest, eat healthy food.)

What are ways we help our minds become whole? (Go to school, read, learn new skills.)

What are ways we help our spirits become whole? (Pray, listen for God, care for others and the Earth.)

READ AND DISCUSS I AM PEACE: A Book of Mindfulness by Susan Verde. This book expresses the importance of mindfulness in practicing wholeness and peace for me, for others, and for creation. Ask children what examples they see in the book about experiencing wholeness and sharing peace.

Give each child an object or image of something that represents wholeness of body, mind, or spirit. Take a moment and have them be mindful of the object by looking at it closely and thinking about it. How does it represent wholeness of body, mind, or spirit? How does it represent wholeness of all three? Share responses with the larger group.

Younger children might understand how different objects help their body, mind, or spirit to be healthy. It is more difficult to understand how fruit, for example, can make your spirit healthy and whole. Help guide discussion according to the age and ability of your group. It is important to reinforce how our body, mind, and spirit make up our whole self. When one is healthy and whole, it helps the others to be healthy and whole.

SAY: Shalom is a Hebrew word that means a completeness or fullness of peace. Sometimes we use the word peace, but shalom is more than peace. Shalom is the vision God has for all creation to be healthy and whole. Shalom does not mean that everything or everyone is perfect; and wholeness of body, mind, and spirit does not mean people are perfect. As we receive, live, and share the peace of Jesus Christ, we create and experience shalom (wholeness) with God, shalom with self, shalom with others, and shalom with creation.

Send AND Bless

Gather children around a table and give them the Temple worksheet from the previous lessons. Ask a child to read this statement adapted from Doctrine and Covenants 163:2b.

Jesus Christ, who is God’s shalom, invites all people to come and receive divine peace during the difficult questions and struggles of life. Follow Christ and discover God’s shalom.

SAY: Jesus invites all disciples to receive, live, and share shalom. In the third building block of the Temple, write or draw what you will do today to practice wholeness of body, mind, and spirit…shalom! Younger children can color their building block as you talk about ways to practice shalom.

Save the worksheets to use each day. Invite one child to close with a prayer.
LESSON FOCUS
We learn and grow as we follow Jesus.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5d
Philippians 4:9 NRSV

OBJECTIVES
The learners will...
• discuss ways people learn.
• create disciple growth charts.

SUPPLIES
• Large erasable writing surface or flip chart and markers
• Fourth Temple building block
• “Jack and Jenn Develop Disciples to Serve” video downloadable at www.cofchrist.org/resources
• Computer or projection equipment to show video
• Copies of Temple worksheet (from previous lessons) and markers or crayons

Gather
Welcome children by name as they enter the space and invite them to play Pictionary. Have each child think about something they have learned (a skill or something in school).

Invite the children, one at a time, to come to the board or flip chart. They will draw something they have learned so that the rest of the class can guess. It might be easier for young children to act out what they have learned rather than drawing it. After each child has a turn to draw or act, discuss these questions.

• How did you learn what you drew or acted?
• Who taught you?
• Was it easy for you to learn? Explain why or why not.
• What did you do to develop what you learned?

Engage AND Respond
Review the purposes of the Temple (a symbol of what we share with the world and our family and friends)
by reading together the verses from the first three building blocks. Read the verse on the fourth building block, then attach it as it fits with the first two building blocks from previous lessons.

The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation (mending our problems) and for healing our spirits. It is to strengthen our faith (our belief and trust in God) and witness (how we show we follow Jesus Christ). It will have ministries to help one’s body, mind, and spirit become whole. It will be a place where both priesthood and member can learn.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156 (adapted)

SAY: One of the Mission Initiatives of Community of Christ is Develop Disciples to Serve.

SHOW: “Jack and Jenn Develop Disciples to Serve” video on a computer or with a projector. Discuss these questions:

- What are Jack and Jenn preparing to do? What tools did they need?
- What does develop mean? (To teach, transform, improve, grow.)
- What is a disciple? (This is a learner and follower of Jesus Christ.)

SHOW: The icon that represents Develop Disciples to Serve, one of the Mission Initiatives.

ASK: What does the image look like (the Temple)? Why do you think this image was chosen to represent the Mission Initiative Develop Disciples to Serve? (We learn and grow as disciples of Jesus so we can share the peace of Jesus Christ with the world, with our families, and with our friends.)

Make a list of skills the children drew or acted in the gathering activity. Talk about how the skills help them develop as disciples who serve others. You might discuss as a group, or form small groups of two or three to discuss.

FOR EXAMPLE: Learning to dribble a soccer ball is a skill needed to play soccer. Developing the skill helps you grow as a soccer player which helps your team develop. Playing the sport and being part of a team gives you the opportunity to demonstrate good sportsmanship, encourage others on the team, and help younger players develop skills. You can share the peace of Jesus Christ by the way you play soccer!

SEND AND BLESS

Gather children around a table and give them the Temple worksheet from the previous lessons. Ask a child to read Philippians 4:9.

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

SAY: In the fourth building block of the Temple, write or draw what you will do today to develop as a disciple of Jesus Christ who serves others. Younger children might choose to color their building block as you talk about ways to learn and grow as children who follow Jesus.

Save the worksheets to use each day. Invite one child to close with a prayer.
LESSON 5
EXPERIENCE RESTORATION

LESSON FOCUS
All are called to be part of a new creation

FOCUS SCRIPTURE
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5e
2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV

OBJECTIVES
The learners will…
- learn the meaning of restoration.
- explore how children can be part of a new creation.

SUPPLIES
- Fifth Temple building block
- Large poster paper or newsprint
- Variety of recycled milk cartons (cleaned and dried), or small boxes, and construction paper
- Scissors, glue, tape, and markers or crayons
- Copies of Temple worksheet (from previous lessons) and markers or crayons

Gather
Welcome children by name as they enter the space. Form a circle and invite each child to share something they learned, or something they taught another, in the time between class sessions.

Engage AND Respond
Review the purposes of the Temple (a symbol of what we share with the world and our family and friends) by reading together the verses from the first four building blocks. Read the verse on the fifth building block, then attach it as it fits with the first four building blocks from previous lessons.

The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation (mending our problems) and for healing our spirits. It is to strengthen our faith (our belief and trust in God) and witness (how we show we follow Jesus Christ). It will have ministries to help one's body, mind, and spirit become whole. It will be a place where both priesthood and member can learn. And it shall be
a place of restoration inspired by the life of Jesus Christ.

— Doctrine and Covenants 156 (adapted)

**ASK:** What does restoration mean to you (fixing, mending, repairing something that is broken, making something old new again)? Where have you seen examples of restoration?

**SAY:** The Gospels (first four books of the New Testament) are filled with stories of Jesus restoring people to wholeness. He did this by healing their illness, being their friend, inviting them to join in his mission, and sharing meals together. Jesus inspired new life in people and in communities.

**ASK:** What are ways you have experienced restoration (healing or new life)? What is something you have done to help another person experience restoration (healing or new life)?

**SAY:** Today we are going to build a Restoration community inspired by the life of Jesus Christ. Everything we add to our community will have a purpose of restoring persons and the Earth to wholeness. For example: A grocery store that offers foods raised, harvested, and packaged with Earth- and animal-friendly products and practices; or an energy company that uses wind or solar power.

Give each child a recycled milk carton or small box. Using construction paper, tape or glue, and markers or crayons, have them create a home, business, church, school, or organization that is part of the Restoration community. Talk about what each one is creating and how it will contribute to a Restoration community. Place the structures on poster paper or newsprint and have the children complete the community with roads and landscape.

**Send AND Bless**

Gather children around a table and give them the Temple worksheet from the previous lessons. Ask a child to read 1 Corinthians 5:17.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**SAY:** In the last building block of the Temple, write or draw what you will do today to be part of a new creation or Restoration community. Younger children might choose to color their building block as you talk about ways to help others and the Earth.

Children can take their Temple worksheets with them to share what they have learned with others.

Form a circle. Begin this prayer statement and invite each child to complete the prayer statement.

Dear God,

Thank you for generously sharing your love and peace. I will share your love and peace, and be part of your new creation by _______________________

___________________

Amen.
Crafts give children the opportunity to create a tangible reminder of the lesson's focus. Creating is more important than the final project. This process can also lead to interesting opportunities to go deeper in your discussions about the focus scriptures and themes. A lesson focus and scripture verses used in each lesson have been provided with each theme. Be mindful of opportunities to bring the theme into your craft time.

**BREATHE PEACE**

**LESSON FOCUS**
Pursue peace, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit

**FOCUS SCRIPTURES**
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a
John 20:21-22 NRSV

**PEACE FLAGS:** The children will make peace flags to be displayed at World Conference 2019. These will be similar to the prayer flags at World Conference 2016. The peace flags will represent the church seal and include messages or prayers of peace. Information about submitting peace flags for use at World Conference will be available on the World Conference 2019 web page.

**SUPPLIES:**
- 12X12-inch cotton or lightweight fabric squares in various colors
- Fabric markers and paint
- Washable ink pads
- Glue, yarn, cotton balls, and wiggle eyes
- Church seal stencil

**YOUNG CHILDREN**
Give each child a fabric square. Ask children to draw a simple picture of themselves in the middle of the flag with fabric markers.

Using the washable inkpads, help children put an upside-down handprint on each side of the self-portrait (a brown handprint to represent the lion and a black handprint to represent the lamb).

Invite children to use glue, yarn, cotton balls, and wiggle eyes to decorate their lion and lamb. Ask (or assist) children to write or copy their names at the top of the flag, and write “PEACE” at the bottom of the flag.

**OLDER CHILDREN** can use this same design idea, or they can use a church seal template to trace the pattern onto their fabric square and fill in with
Crafts and Projects

Prior to making a representation of the church seal, have them write a message or prayer for peace on the opposite side of the fabric with fabric markers. Then turn the fabric over to create their church seal. Children might also decide to draw or paint a representation of the church seal without the template.

Or they can create the logo with masking tape, cover the area around the logo with fabric spray paint, then remove the masking tape to reveal the logo.

EMBODY WHOLENESS

LESSON FOCUS
Wholeness of body, mind, and spirit

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5c, 163:2b (adapted)

SACRED PATHS: Children will create a sacred path that represents their journey with God toward wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.

SUPPLIES:
• 12X12-inch cardstock or recycled pizza box lids (or choose a smaller size based on availability of supplies)
• 12X12-inch plain or patterned paper (or choose a smaller size based on availability)
• Variety of polished stones or polished glass pebbles
• Glue
• Nature stickers or images
• Items from nature (sand dollars, star fish, leaves, pine cones)

Give each child cardstock or a cardboard square and have them select a paper. Glue the paper to the cardstock or cardboard. Have each child select an item from nature as their center and polished stones or glass pebbles to create their path.

Their path can be a spiral, or any design they choose. Once the path is completed, have them glue their items in place. Embellish with markers or stickers as a reminder that our journey of wholeness includes all of creation.
Option for reusing supplies: If using a rotation format for classes, create the sacred paths but do not glue items, and use pictures or natural elements instead of stickers.

Take a picture of each child with their sacred path creation. Text the picture to the child’s parent, or print pictures to give to each child. Reuse materials with the next class rotation.

EMBRACE FORMATION

LEsson Focus

We learn and grow as we follow Jesus.

Focus Scriptures

Doctrine and Covenants 156:5d
Philippians 4:9 NRSV

Learn and Glow: Children will create candle holders to represent the light they shine in the world as growing disciples of Jesus. The luminary will remind them to learn and glow!

Supplies:

- Small recycled glass jars (cleaned and dried, without label), one for each child
- Battery-powered tea light candle, one for each child
- Strips of white paper printed with Philippians 4:9 for younger children
- Markers
- Multicolored kite paper
- Mod Podge glue and small containers
- Foam brushes
- Newspaper to cover work surface

Cover work surface with newspaper. Give each child a clear jar, small container with glue, a foam brush, and a small white strip of paper. Philippians 4:9 has been printed on the paper strips for younger students. Older children can write the verse on their paper.

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.  
—Philippians 4:9

Have the children take different colors of kite paper and tear into small pieces. With the foam brush, cover the jar with a thin layer of Mod Podge glue. Attach the scripture verse in the center of the jar, then attach the small pieces of kite paper around the verse to cover the rest of the jar. Once the jar is covered, paint another thin layer of glue over all the paper pieces to seal and finish. Place a tea light candle inside the jar and allow about an hour to dry.

EXPERIENCE RESTORATION

LEsson Focus

All are called to be part of a new creation.

Focus Scriptures

Doctrine and Covenants 156:5e
2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV

Earth Blessing Trees: Children will create trees of blessing for a new creation.

Supplies:

- Small tree branches with twigs (select these in advance, or take children outside to select their own)
- Recycled tin cans (cleaned and dried), one per child
• Pebbles
• Paper leaves in a variety of colors and patterns
• Scissors
• Small hole punch
• Twine or string
• Construction paper and glue
• Pens or markers

Give each child a small tree branch, or take them outside to select their own. Give each child a tin can and have them fill the bottom with pebbles. Place the branch in the can and add enough pebbles to support the branch.

Copy and cut leaf patterns for older children to use as templates. Have them cut out as many leaves as they want to include on their blessing tree. Punch small holes in the leaves and attach a small piece of twine or string to tie and hang leaf on the tree.

YOUNGER CHILDREN: Have leaves cut with holes already punched and strings tied. On each leaf, have the children write a blessing for the Earth, or something they can do to restore the Earth. They might also write statements of gratitude for the blessings of community and creation. Write 2 Corinthians 5:17 on construction paper and glue to the can.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

This is a reminder that as we live and share the peace of Jesus Christ, we are part of a new creation…a Restoration community!

See pattern for seal on p 20
CHURCH SEAL STENCIL

PEACE
Hymn and song suggestions are provided to accompany each lesson focus. For each theme there is a selection from Community of Christ Sings as well as an additional song suggestion. Hymns and songs from Community of Christ Sings may not be copied without a license. Contact Community of Christ’s office of general counsel for more information if you wish to make copies from Community of Christ Sings.

Printed music included in this activity guide may be copied as needed. Accompaniment tracks for hymns can be found on the Community of Christ Sings Audio Recording thumb drive (UPC 680121003823) available through Herald House. Recordings of original songs are available at www.cofchrist.org/reunion-resources-2018.

Encourage a holistic music experience by adding motions or sign language to reinforce lyrics, incorporating movement and dance, or including rhythm instruments (purchased or created from recycled materials).

A lesson focus and scripture verses used in each lesson have been provided with each theme. Be mindful of opportunities to bring the theme into your music time.

**BREATHE PEACE**

**LESSON FOCUS**
Pursue peace, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit.

**FOCUS SCRIPTURES**
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a
John 20:21-22 NRSV

“Peace, Salaam, Shalom” CCS 310

You can choose to use the video “Peace Through All People” to teach this song.

“Prayer of Peace” CCS 164

“Children of Peace” (PDF included)

**LIVE WITNESS**

**LESSON FOCUS**
Strengthen faith and prepare for witness

**FOCUS SCRIPTURES**
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5b
Matthew 28:19-20 (adapted)

“I’m Gonna Live so God Can Use Me” CCS 581

Sing multiple times and invite children to add words in place of “live” that demonstrate how they can witness for Christ’s peace.

“This Little Light of Mine” (traditional)

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
(3 times)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Hide it under a bushel, NO! I’m gonna let it shine
(3 times)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
Won't let the world blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine (3 times)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

“We are One in the Spirit” CCS 359

“Enduring Principles” (provided)

EMBODY WHOLENESS

LESSON FOCUS
Wholeness of body, mind, and spirit

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5c, 163:2b (adapted)

“Every Little Cell”
(YouTube has an example of the melody.)
Every little cell in my body is happy. Every little cell in my body is well. (Repeat.)
I'm so glad every little cell in my body is happy and well. (Repeat.)

“Circle Round for Freedom” CCS 383
Invite children to think of new words to add:
“Circle round for…”

“I Am Amazing” (provided)

EMBRACE FORMATION

LESSON FOCUS
We learn and grow as we follow Jesus.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5d
Philippians 4:9 NRSV

“Spirit of the Living God” CCS 567
Learn in multiple languages.

“Kanisa Litajengwa” CCS 338
This song from Kenya expresses how we all work together to build the church.

“Enduring Principles” (provided)

EXPERIENCE RESTORATION

LESSON FOCUS
All are called to be part of a new creation.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5e
2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV

“Is There One Who Feels Unworthy?” CCS 526

“Take Care of God's World” (provided)
Children of Peace

We are children of peace loving our neighbor practicing justice.

D A D A

ice sharing the love of God for all. We are making a difference loving our neighbor practicing justice sharing the love of God for all the world. Let justice roll let God's love flow in a river of generosity to every person for all of creation loving as one community Let justice roll let God's love flow in a river of generosity This is who we are called to be children of peace.

This is who we are called to be children of peace.
Enduring Principles

Janné Grover

§

En-dur-ing Prin-ci-ples, they’re im-port-ant! En-dur-ing Prin-ci-ples, they’re ev-er-la-

§

- ast-ing! They show the world just what God’s love is like and how to live like Je-sus Christ.
Grace and Generosity, Sacredness of Creation.

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Responsible Choices, Pursuit of Peace, that's
Enduring Principles

God's shalom. Un-unity in Diversity, Blessings of Community.

En-during Principles, they're important! En-during Principles, they're ever last-ing! They show the world just what God's love is like and how to live like Jesus Christ.

To Coda
Grace and Generosity, Sacredness of Creation, Continuing Revelation, Worth of All Persons, and All Are Called, Responsible Choices, Pursuit of Peace, that's...
(The following phrases can be inserted, in the order they appear, where indicated by the music.)

*We receive God’s love and share with everyone.
*All creation is precious to God.
*We listen for God every day.
*We value the amazing gifts in all people.
*Good decisions can make the world a better place.
*We are peacemakers!
*We belong to one another and are stronger because we are different.
I Am Amazing!

I am amazing, just as I am. You are amazing. We are God’s children, we are amazing!

What makes me, is much different than what makes you who you are. But we are a child of God, and we are made to love. If we can see the potential that’s inside of everyone, what a wonderful, exceptional, peaceful world this would be!

I am amazing, just as I am. You are amazing, and together we can share the peace of Christ, help a friend in need.
make the world a better place to be. We are God's children, we are amazing! We are God's children, we are amazing!
Take Care of God's World

Janné Grover

After six long days of doing the best God created everything then took a rest. God sat right down and said, "That's good!" It's all come together just the way it should. God made the sky and everything in it, God made the sea and everything that swims. God created the Earth for all the

Community of Christ
people to share, and there's more than enough if we take care of God's world. A heal-thi-er plan-net makes good things grow. Let's all work to-gether to make it so. When we care for the Earth God says, "That's good!" We are liv-ing in har-mo-ny the way we should. God made the sky and every-thing in it. God made the sea and every -thing that swims. God cre-a-ted the Earth for all the Community of Christ
people to share, and there's more than enough if we take care, God

made the sky and everything in it. God made the sea and everything that swims.

people to share, and there's more than enough if we take care of God's

world.

Community of Christ
A variety of cooperative games and activities are provided to reinforce the lesson focus and focus scriptures. Games help children practice skills of cooperation and peacebuilding. Each child is uniquely abled. Upholding the Worth of All Persons, instructors are encouraged to adapt games and activities by simplifying or adding more complex layers based on children’s ages and abilities. It is important to remember participation is more important than competition. A lesson focus and scripture verses used in each lesson have been provided with each theme. Be mindful of opportunities to bring the theme into your recreation time.

BREATHE PEACE

LESSON FOCUS
Pursue peace, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a
John 20:21-22 NRSV

BREATHE PEACE RELAY
This relay can be done indoors on a long table surface with cotton balls.

Form two teams and have half of each team at opposite ends of the table. Each team member blows their cotton ball from one end of the table to the other without using their hands to guide. If their cotton ball falls off the table they must start over. When a team completes the relay, everyone yells “Peace!”

LIVE WITNESS

LESSON FOCUS
Strengthen faith and prepare for witness.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5b
Matthew 28:19-20 (adapted)

WITNESS WALK
For this activity, create a pathway or course with various obstacles, and prepare blindfolds. Form pairs to navigate the course. As each pair approaches the course, one will be blindfolded, and the other will be the guide. The guide must direct the blindfolded participant safely through the course. Make sure each child has the opportunity to be blindfolded and be a guide.
Alter the activity by having the guides lead their partner without words, and also guiding with words only and no touch. Alter the course each time to challenge the witness guides. It is a reminder that we witness...lead others to Christ...with our words and with our actions.

EMBODY WHOLENESS

LESSON FOCUS
Wholeness of body, mind, and spirit

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5c, 163:2b (adapted)

YOGA AND NATURE WALK
Doing yoga and walking are good forms of exercise that promote wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. You also can incorporate mindfulness or prayer practices. Adapt activities according to the size, age, and abilities of each group.

Prior to leading this session, prepare several note cards with names and descriptions of simple yoga poses. Consult a yoga instructor or type “yoga poses for children” into a search engine for ideas and descriptions.

Teach the yoga poses to the children. Make time for a walk around the grounds, allowing each child to be the leader. Periodically have each leader stop the group and lead one or two yoga poses with the group. With each pose, have children think about something in creation for which they are grateful, or have them pronounce a blessing (a statement of kindness or prayer of blessing) for the Earth or for one another.

EMBRACE FORMATION

LESSON FOCUS
We learn and grow as we follow Jesus.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5d
Philippians 4:9 NRSV

FORMATION RELAY
This relay activity can be done inside or outside. You will need a long table, and 10-15 plastic cups for each team. Form as many teams as numbers, supplies, and space allow.

Give each team the same number of cups to stack; vary the number of cups each round. Each team member will begin from a starting point, run to the table, stack the cups in the designated formation, then unstack the cups and run the cups back to the next team member. For smaller groups, have the whole class be one team and see how fast the team can complete the relay each round.

EXPERIENCE RESTORATION

LESSON FOCUS
All are called to be part of a new creation.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5e
2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV

RESTORATION TAG
This game is a variation for the traditional game of tag. The idea is to restore persons to the community, so the object of the game is to include rather than eliminate.

Designate two people as “It.” They will link arms and chase other class members. Any person they tag or catch joins the chain by linking arms. When the “It” group is large enough, the group can reorganize into pairs or even numbers, or stay together. Play until everyone is restored to the community.
HEALTHY SNACKS

Model “healthy relationships with…the earth” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:2b) by providing healthy snacks rather than processed, high-sugar, high-fat, and preservative-filled foods. As much as possible, serve snacks using reusable or paper plates and cups, preferably compostable or containing recycled content.

If possible, allow time for children to help with preparing, serving, and cleaning up after snacks. Be aware of food allergies and avoid such foods for all children. An allergic child can have a severe reaction simply through smell or touch. A lesson focus and scripture verses used in each lesson have been provided with each theme. Be mindful of opportunities to bring the theme into your snack time.

BREATHE PEACE

LESSON FOCUS
Pursue peace, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a
John 20:21-22 NRSV

Ask if a child (or children) would like to say a prayer thanking God for the snack. If no one offers, say a brief prayer of thanks.

PEACE CAKES
RICE CAKES AND SQUEEZABLE YOGURT
Children can decorate their rice cake with the squeezable yogurt in a way that represents peace (peace sign, shape of a dove, heart).

LIVE WITNESS

LESSON FOCUS
Strengthen faith and prepare for witness.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5b
Matthew 28:19-20 (adapted)

Ask if a child (or children) would like to say a prayer thanking God for the snack. If no one offers, say a brief prayer of thanks.

PRETZEL PEOPLE
GLUTEN-FREE PRETZEL STICKS AND CHEESE CUBES
Invite children to use the snack items to create a person. This is a reminder that each person is a living witness for Christ’s peace.
EMBODY WHOLENESS

LESSON FOCUS
Wholeness of body, mind, and spirit

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5c, 163:2b (adapted)

Ask if a child (or children) would like to say a prayer thanking God for the snack. If no one offers, say a brief prayer of thanks.

FRUITS AND VEGGIES
OFFER: Serve a variety of fruit or vegetable pieces. Talk about how healthy foods promote wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. Invite children to be mindful of (think about) the people who grew, harvested, shipped, and sold the fruits and vegetables for their snack today.

EMBRACE FORMATION

LESSON FOCUS
We learn and grow as we follow Jesus.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5d
Philippians 4:9 NRSV

Ask if a child (or children) would like to say a prayer thanking God for the snack. If no one offers, say a brief prayer of thanks.

LEARN AND GROW
Provide a variety of whole-grain and gluten-free crackers or cereal squares. Have children use their snack pieces to form something that represents what they can do to learn and grow as a disciple who serves.

EXPERIENCE RESTORATION

LESSON FOCUS
All are called to be part of a new creation.

FOCUS SCRIPTURES
Doctrine and Covenants 156:5e
2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV

Ask if a child (or children) would like to say a prayer thanking God for the snack. If no one offers, say a brief prayer of thanks.

NEW CREATION SNACK
SHOW: Some unpopped popcorn kernels. Plug in the air popper and let the children watch the popcorn kernels become a new creation! Serve the popcorn and enjoy.
THE TEMPLE IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

Photo from Community of Christ archives
BUILDING A TEMPLE OF CHRIST'S PEACE

LESSON 1
BREATHE PEACE

LESSON 2
LIVE WITNESS

LESSON 3
EMBODY WHOLENESS

LESSON 4
EMBRACE FORMATION

LESSON 5
EXPERIENCE RESTORATION
The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation (mending our problems) and for healing our spirits.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a (adapted)
The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation (mending our problems) and for healing our spirits. It is to strengthen our faith (our belief and trust in God) and witness (how we show we follow Jesus Christ).

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a–b (adapted)
The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation (mending our problems) and for healing our spirits. It is to strengthen our faith (our belief and trust in God) and witness (how we show we follow Jesus Christ). **It will have ministries to help one’s body, mind, and spirit become whole.**

—Doctrine and Covenants 156:5a–c (adapted)
LESSON 4
EMBRACE FORMATION

The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation (mending our problems) and for healing our spirits. It is to strengthen our faith (our belief and trust in God) and witness (how we show we follow Jesus Christ). It will have ministries to help one’s body, mind, and spirit become whole. It will be a place where both priesthood and member can learn.

—Doctrine and Covenants 156 (adapted)
The temple shall be dedicated to the pursuit of peace. It shall be for reconciliation (mending our problems) and for healing our spirits. It is to strengthen our faith (our belief and trust in God) and witness (how we show we follow Jesus Christ). It will have ministries to help one’s body, mind, and spirit become whole. It will be a place where both priesthood and member can learn. **And it shall be a place of restoration inspired by the life of Jesus Christ.**

—*Doctrine and Covenants 156* (adapted)
SPIRAL IMAGES IN NATURE