

## DAY FOUR - FOLLOW JESUS TO BE PEOPLE OF PEACE

### BIBLE REFERENCE: Ephesians 3:14

*For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.*

### WORSHIP AS A GLOBAL VILLAGE

1. Bible reading
2. Storyteller use script 4
3. Sing-a-long
4. Closing prayer or litany

### Script 4

*[Readers needed: Two adults who will read the play]*

*Leader 1:* Hey! Hey! Let's keep it down here. I want a little peace and quiet in this group!

*Leader 2:* Now just a minute. You don't have any right to go yelling at these kids.

1: I certainly do. I have a headache and I want it nice and peaceful.

2: Then why don't you just ask them politely to be quiet and explain why you would like it to be quiet. You don't have to yell and shout like that.

1: How can you stand there and be so calm when there's so much noise and commotion around here?

2: I can be calm because I know that peace comes from God, like a gift, and we need to learn how to use that gift of God's peace in our lives and in our world.

1: *(Shouting again)* Well, if peace is a gift from God I can sure tell you there's not much of that gift around here lately, because it's been pretty loud!

2: Seems like right now you're the only one who is loud. Maybe you need to work on finding where God's peace-gift is in your life right now.

1: How would I do that?

2: Well, to start with, you can think about Jesus and how he was always at peace with other people, even when they weren't at peace with him. He was like that because he knew he was at peace with his Father, God. He knew that peace was God's gift to him.

1: Do you think that if I remember Jesus' peace, and try to stay close to Jesus, that some of that peace would come into my life?

2: Absolutely. Oh, and lowering your voice would help too.

1: *(Softly)* Okay.

**NEWSPAPER WORLD OF PEACE** - Have plenty of news sections from the newspaper in your opening area. Instruct the children to cut out articles that have to do with peace or that have to do with people in the world in need. These articles can be used to make a giant PEACE FOR THE WORLD - WHEN WILL IT COME mural.

**PEACE BIG BOOK** - Explore the lives of peacemakers such as Jesus, Johnny

Appleseed, Martin Luther King Jr., or Jane Addams by reading to the children about their lives. The children then recreate the stories of these peacemakers in pictures and words. These pages then become part of the class's *Peace Big Book*. The book should end with each of the children in the class drawing a picture or writing a story about themselves as a peacemaker. They might also show what they can do to be a peacemaker. Add these child pages to your *Peace Big Book*.

**READ BEST FRIENDS** by Steven Kellogg or *Feelings* by Aiki. These are great books to start a discussion about feelings and how to deal with them. Children need to know that feelings are okay even bad feelings. Discuss the different feelings in the books and record them in a feelings word bank. Encourage the children to talk, write, or draw about a feeling that they have had (good or bad). Make sure that you stress the excellent opportunity to talk to your children about war and discover their feelings about why wars happen. It also opens an opportunity to importance of making sure we care about others feelings too.

**THE BUTTER BATTLE BOOK** by Dr. Suess. This is an excellent book about the nature of war. The Zooks and the Yooks each butter their bread on a different side and this causes an arms race and finally a confrontation between the two sides. Everyone is left wondering who will drop the first bomb. This book creates a perfect time to discuss that people don't always get along. Take this opportunity to discuss some of the ways that countries don't always get along. This book also opens discussions about issues within a country that can cause an almost war like atmosphere such as the issue of race relations. Talk about how the children think God feels when countries are at war or when they have war like atmospheres.

**USE IDEAS** from the publication *Let's Talk About Living In A World With Violence* by James Garbarino. It is available from the Erikson Institute, 420 North Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. This book is part of a continuing research project by the Erikson Institute focused on families and children learning to cope with the impact of violence on their lives.

**CREATE WITH YOUR CLASS A WORD BANK** for each of the following areas:

What are words that make your think about violence?

What are the feelings that you have when someone is violent towards you?

Who can you talk to about violence?

After the children have made their word banks would be a good time to have a counselor, social worker, or psychologist come and talk with the children about violence and how it effects them. The word banks would be a good starting point for how the children feel about violence in their lives

**TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN** about how they will be God's peacemakers in the future. Talk about how it will one day be their responsibility to bring and keep peace in God's world. Create with your class peace poles to help them remember what God wants them to do. Use paper covered carpet roles. Christmas tree stand work to keep them upright. Let the children decorate the poles with symbols and words of peace. This

should be used as a cooperative activity. The group should also experience the peaceful process of working and making decisions with one another. Use the poles as discussion starters.

**DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILDREN THE BEATITUDES** found in Matthew 5:1-12. The purpose of this lesson is to show the children that there is hope in the world. That they have a calling from God to help the poor and oppressed to a better life through Christ. This will also give them hope for themselves as disciples of Christ. Brainstorm ideas to help them reach out and then act on one or more of their ideas.

**RESEARCH THE NATIVE AMERICAN MANDALA DESIGN.** Talk with the children about how this design was used by Native Americans to remind us that we all live in harmony with God's creation. Help each of the children create their own Mandala Design. Get them talking about how their design will help them to remember to live in peace with all of God's creation.

**TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THE SONG "SHALOM".** Use the following actions and consider sharing this song of peace with your congregation at a Sunday worship service.

Shalom my friends - Partners bring palms together in front of their chest as if in prayer.

Shalom my friends - Repeat the action above.

Shalom - Keeping palms together , move hands up and outward to form a complete circle.

Shalom - Each partner brings their hands back to a folded position in front of their chest.

May peace be with you - Partners bow head, hands, and upper bodies towards each other.

May peace be with you - Repeat the action above.

Shalom - Each person repeats the circular movement from above.

Shalom - Cross hands over chest, touching fingertips to opposite shoulders.

**CREATE WITH YOUR CLASS A PEACE QUILT.** Use muslin squares sized according to the number of children in your class. You can use puffy paints, fabric crayons or permanent markers. Encourage the children to express their feelings about peace in their peace square. Find a parent to sew the quilt together. You can also use construction paper and tie it together with ribbon or yarn. Make a center piece for your quilt that says ...For Peace in God's World.

**PLAY WITH YOUR CLASS THE BROKEN SQUARES SIMULATION.** This will help the children in your class cooperate to group solve a problem. It helps students see how they work together in a group to solve a problem. The simulation can be found in [Peace - A Thematic Unit](#) by Teacher Created Materials - Primary edition, 1994.

