

Session 6

Intergenerational Celebration



This is an opportunity to get together with members of your whole congregation or your families and friends and share with them a little of what you have learned about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.



Preparation

Decorate your hall or your Zoom backgrounds with images of Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, such as both flags, banners, buildings, pictures of animals and birds. Can you make a big banner to say 'Welcome' in Arabic and Hebrew? Set up some activity tables around the room.

During your celebrations, try saying please and thank you in Arabic and in Hebrew.

Arabic: "Min fadlak" is how you say please to a male, "Min fadlin" is how you say it to a woman. "Shukran" is the easiest way to say thank you. There are lots of different ways to say please and thank you, depending on who is speaking to whom and what the circumstances are, but these are fairly universal.

Hebrew: "Toda" is thank you (pronounced toe-DAH) and please is "Bevakashah" (pronounced be-va-kuh-SHAH), which can also be used to mean "you're welcome" in response to someone saying thank you.

Activity tables

Table one – You will need paper (or blank flags or bunting) and pens and examples of how to write 'peace' in both languages. Instructions: Both Arabic and Hebrew are written from right to left instead of left to right as we do when writing English. Choose some words and try writing them backwards – especially if you know how to join your writing. Alternatively, try writing the word for 'Peace' in Hebrew or Arabic script. Look how similar the two words are when you say them!

Arabic: Salam

سلام

Hebrew: Shalom

שלום

Table two – Use different coloured sugar paper and encourage everyone to draw around their hands and cut out the shapes. On the paper, write or draw your prayers for IOPT, for peace and justice, for sharing and understanding. Fasten the hand shapes to a big circle to form a wreath shape. You could glue on some dried olive leaves too, if you choose, to symbolise peace. Or you could link two handprints together, like in the photograph, to form a dove and a handshake to symbolise peace.

Alternatively, cut some olive leaf shapes out of green sugar paper. Encourage people to write their prayers on the olive leaves and tie them to a bunch of twigs to make a peace tree.

Table three – Light a candle for peace – you need empty jam jars, ceramic pens, tissue paper, LED nightlights.

Decorate your jam jar – you could use tissue paper glued to the outside of the jar to make some of the special buildings of Jerusalem; you could design a drawing to represent your response to the situation in IOPT; you could use tissue paper or pens to create an image or symbol that reminds you of peace or justice or fairness. Light your LED candle and place it inside the jar to bring God's light and peace.



Table four – Set up a table where people can make some postcards to send to your MP. Decorate one side with an image of something that concerns you about IOPT. On the other side, write the address of the MP for your area (it might be good to have these already written) and write a message, sharing your concerns about the region and what you would like the MP to do.

To eat

Falafel and hummus with pitta

The instructions for making hummus can be found in #connect2 on page 10.

To make falafel you will need:

- 1x 400g can of chickpeas, drained
- 4 cloves garlic, roughly chopped
- 1 shallot, roughly chopped
- 2 tbsp freshly chopped parsley
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 3 tbsp plain flour
- Pinch of salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Vegetable oil for frying



Blend all the ingredients together in a food processor with a metal blade. Form into balls about 5cm in diameter. Fry until golden then transfer to a plate lined with a paper towel to absorb the fat, and sprinkle immediately with a little salt. Serve in pitta with hummus.

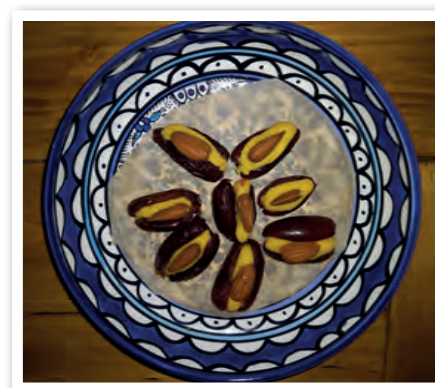
Almond Stuffed Dates

You will need:

- Large medjool dates
- Marzipan/almond paste
- Whole almonds

Cut a slit in the side of each date and remove the pit (stone). Pinch off a small piece of the marzipan and roll it into a cylinder that is a bit shorter than the date. Stuff the date with the marzipan and top with a whole almond.

Alternatively, you could stuff the dates with goats' cheese, pomegranate seeds and pistachios.



To drink

Orange Blossom and Honey Lemonade

You will need:

- 1 large lemon
- 1 orange
- 1 tbsp honey
- 2 tsp orange blossom water
- 1 litre cold water
- 1 small handful mint
- 10 ice cubes

Put the juice of the lemon and the juice of half the orange into a large jug and add all the other ingredients. Mix thoroughly and decorate with slices of orange and lemon. If you prefer, you can use sparkling water instead of still.

Orange blossom water is not cheap to come by but you only need small quantities. You can get it from Amazon, Lakeland or Waitrose amongst other places.



Dance

The *Dabke* dates back centuries in Palestinian culture and is traditionally performed during happy occasions like weddings or festivals. There are some variations on the dance but *Dabke* (which means 'stamping of the feet' in Arabic) is like a combination of circle and line dancing, complete with plenty of half kicks and stamping of feet. Why not have a go at learning how to dance it? Or just watch the experts: <https://youtu.be/xKhi9LUk8tU>. Dance can be used as a peaceful way of protesting about things that concern you. What other forms of protest and awareness raising can you think of?

Sing

https://youtu.be/52KmT1fN_ak *Matisyahu* 'One Day' song. Why not learn this song and sing it together?

Pray for Peace

From Christian Aid report

Pray not for Arab or Jew,
for Palestinian or Israeli,
but pray rather for ourselves,
that we might not
divide them in our prayers
but keep them both together
in our hearts.
When races fight,
peace be amongst us.
When neighbours argue
peace be amongst us.
When nations disagree
peace be amongst us.
Where people struggle for justice
let justice prevail.
Where Christ's disciples follow
let peace be our way.
Amen.

Prayer For Israel And The Occupied Palestinian Territory

By Diana Paulding

Creator God, God of Palestine, God of Israel.

When the Jubilee comes, all will be free, all will be forgiven, all will be returned. Bring a new jubilee to your Holy Land, Lord.

Let there be freedom for those who queue at checkpoints in the West Bank, freedom for those imprisoned for refusing military conscription, freedom for those blockaded in Gaza.

Let there be forgiveness for longstanding tensions between neighbours, forgiveness for acts that stem from fear instead of love, and we ask for forgiveness for our own country's history in dividing the Holy Land.

Let refugees return to their homes, let olive trees be returned to their farmers, let the persecuted return to a place of safety.

Let our call for justice and peace be the trumpet call that heralds the Land's jubilee.

Amen.

Games

Play Fishermen or Matkot, which you will find on pages 9 and 13 in *Go with Greta*

Share

How might you share with one another the things you have learned about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory? In intergenerational teams, perhaps you could create a display or a news report or a quiz to share as part of your celebration. Or perhaps you could make a short video for your church website or Facebook page. The Children's and Youth Work team at Church House would love to see what you've done, so send your videos and photographs to children.youth@urc.org.uk



Labi Siffre song – Something inside so strong

The higher you build your barriers
The taller I become
The further you take my rights away
The faster I will run
You can deny me
You can decide to turn your face away
No matter, cos there's
Something inside so strong
I know that I can make it
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong
You thought that my pride was gone
Oh no, something inside so strong
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong
The more you refuse to hear my voice
The louder I will sing
You hide behind walls of Jericho
Your lies will come tumbling
Deny my place in time
You squander wealth that's mine
My light will shine so brightly
It will blind you
Cos there's
Something inside so strong
I know that I can make it
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong
You thought that my pride was gone
Oh no, something inside so strong

Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong
Brothers and sisters
When they insist we're just not good enough
When we know better
Just look 'em in the eyes and say
We're gonna do it anyway
We're gonna do it anyway
Something inside so strong
And I know that I can make it
Tho' you're doing me wrong, so wrong
You thought that my pride was gone
Oh no, something inside so strong
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong
Brothers and sisters
When they insist we're just not good enough
When we know better
Just look 'em in the eyes and say
We're gonna do it anyway
We're gonna do it anyway
We're gonna do it anyway
We're gonna do it anyway
Because there's something inside so strong
And I know that I can make it
Tho' you're doing me, so wrong
Oh no, something inside so strong
Oh oh oh oh oh something inside so strong

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Labi Siffre

Additional information

If your group would be interested in exchanging letters with a group of young people in IOPT, contact team@solutionsnotsides.co.uk and let them know. They are beginning a project linking British and Palestinian young people through an exchange of letters and are looking for groups to get involved.

