

Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Free to use - please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR

Title: Romans 15: 5-7, 13

Theme: Prince of Peace

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

This week follows on from last week, we are looking at the theme of Advent using the words HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. This week we are thinking about PEACE. This theme links with the theme of hope from last week as we have a hope for peace and that we can live in harmony with others around us, with Gods hope at the centre.

Peace runs through the narrative of Jesus time with us. He came as the Prince of Peace and John 14:27 states that he left us with peace 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'

The peace that Jesus gives allows us to not just tolerate other people, but to be accepting of who they are, so that we can live in peace alongside one another. Christ came to bring peace and with this an understanding that we will not always agree but Christs peace will allow us to live together and welcome our differences.

The passage today uses the words Gentiles. This may need explaining to some children, you could say 'Gentiles is a word from the Bible. It means people who are not Jewish; if someone was not part of the Jewish religion or family, they were called a Gentile.

Together – prayer and games

Let's start our time with God and each other well

Use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

Alternatively, you may join with the widgit prayer found in the Faith Adventures: Children together or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

Active game - Just Keep it Up

"May God who gives patience, steadiness, and encouragement help you to live in complete harmony with each other."

Our passage today encourages us to look after one another, to see what others may need and help them - just as Jesus did.

This game is all about working together as a team, helping one another, to achieve the goal.

What you need:

inflated balloons

What you do:

Gather in a circle and hold hands.

Throw a balloon into the air and try to keep it up without letting go of each others' hands. Other rules you could introduce could include:

try and play the game in silence

try and keep more than one balloon in the air at a time - how many can the group manage?

use different coloured balloons that can only be kept up using different parts of the body (e.g. red – hands, blue – feet, yellow – head.)

Quiet game - Decorate a christmas tree

Decorate a person as a Christmas tree. This is a fun game, to engage those who are gathered to be creative and links with the theme of Christmas, although there will not be much peace and guiet while it takes place.

You will need:

as many Christmas decorations as you can gather

What you do:

Either split into teams or work as one group, select who you are going to decorate. Using the gathered resources, decorate the individual(s) to resemble a Christmas tree. If working in teams -this could be a race against each other, if working as a team you could set a timer. You might want to judge a winner.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to Romans 15: 5-7, 13 and is from the Living Bible. https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2015%3A%205-7%2C%2013&version=TLB

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on www.biblegateway.com Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

⁵May God who gives patience, steadiness, and encouragement help you to live in complete harmony with each other—each with the attitude of Christ toward the other. ⁶ And then all of us can praise the Lord together with one voice, giving glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ So warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.

¹³ So I pray for you Gentiles that God who gives you hope will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. I pray that God will help you overflow with hope in him through the Holy Spirit's power within you.

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Watch: Shalom – peace by Bible project https://youtu.be/oLYORLZOaZE?si=iwFTnjmXqKmOLsyd

Questions for discussion

- Where do you think the world is good at doing shalom?
- Where does the world need to work on shalom more?

Listen to this song as you reflect on how you can help bring shalom to the world.

Peace by Hillsong https://youtu.be/6f6YJp_wqvE?si=jnArri27blGQbLT

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

You will need:

- a collection of Christmas card fronts
- a collection of collage materials
- a large sheet of paper with PEACE written on it that has been cut into how ever many are in the group

What you do:

Gather the group around a table or on the floor in a circle.

Begin by asking whether anyone has started writing or sending Christmas cards yet? What types of cards they like getting?

Take the Cards and spread them all around in the centre of the group.

Ask them to pull out the ones that are about peace. Separate them, discarding the others for now.

Sit back and look at the peace card collection that the children have chosen.

Ask them to explain why the images they have chosen are about peace. What's their favourite one?

Do they still agree that they are all about peace or would they like to remove any?

Then ask why is peace a Christmas word? Chat about this for a moment together.

A Bible verse we often hear at Christmas is: Isaiah 9 v 6

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Why was Jesus called the Prince of Peace. (the wondering questions have more questions to use if you would like to)

Revisit the Bible passage Romans 15: 5-7,13,

Jesus came to bring God's peace to the world and to teach us how to live peacefully with each other.

Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

From Birth to cross line drawing

https://youtu.be/1iYADbwMK1Q?si=QwrmnVHnXSHXz9bg by Israyelray Myasnik

As you watch the video reflect on how Jesus coming as a baby came to bring peace on earth. The ultimate sacrifice that he made, born as a baby that led to death on a cross to bring peace on earth.

- How does watching his video make you feel?
- Does it bring you a sense of peace?

Group discussion

- If Jesus is the Prince of Peace why is there still conflict in the world?
- I wonder whether peace means taking action?

Personal reflection

- What compromises are you prepared to make to keep the peace?
- I wonder if you've ever felt full of peace?

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Praying together

Use the following link or one you have found yourself to make an origami peace dove. Create a poem or prayer to attach to the dove.

This link will show you how to fold an origami dove. How to make a dove by white origami:

https://youtu.be/Oh03DJ0dOOc?si=FfhiV0ZMIB1rDo2r

Prayer Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer.

Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.



God of patience and encouragement, Thank You for sticking with us, even when we mess up. Thank You for giving us the strength to keep going And the people around us to help us grow.

Help us to live in harmony with one another. Not just getting along, but truly working together— As a team, with one heart and one voice, So we can show the world what Your love looks like.

Jesus, You welcomed us just as we are— Help us to welcome others the same way. Not with judgement, but with grace. Not with gossip, but with kindness. Not with distance, but with open hearts.

This week, Lord, give us a mission: Show us one person who needs encouragement, And help us to lift them up. Show us one person who feels left out, And help us to include them. Show us one moment to be peacemakers— And give us the courage to do it.

We want to honour You with our lives, Our words, and our friendships.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Responding together - peace mural

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity, You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. Choose whatever will work best for your group.



Create a Peace mural together

Jesus is known as the Prince of peace, each of us can bring our own sense of peace to a situation.

Use a variety of collage resources to create a peace mural, each person takes a square of banner and decorate it as you think about peace and Jesus being the prince of peace. Bring them all together to create one collage, a reminder that when we all come together in peace, it is a good thing. Ask the group, where they would like to put the banner for people to see.



Seeking peace

There are many charities, organisations and individuals who are always striving for peace. Can you find out who they are? What sort of work are they doing? Is it achieving anything? Can you get involved?

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the "conversation starter" questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. Where would you like to see God's peace?
- Research something suggested by JPIT, Resources (jpit.uk) Commitment for Life cforl.co.uk
- Each day take some time to lie peacefully, it could be outside looking at the sky or indoors, focus on a picture or have some quiet music in the background if it helps you. Take a few deep breaths and relax letting God to fill your mind. I wonder what thoughts, pictures, words or feelings are stirred in you, I wonder if you feel called to action.

Thank you for exploring the **Romans** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on www.bit.ly/FACT_FB





























































































