



faith in action

“The World Community”

“Did not your father have food and drink? He did what was right and just, so all went well with him” Jeremiah 22:15 (b)

Lesson: If the gospel, or *good news*, of Jesus the Christ was to be summarized in one word, it would be *love*. This universal love, directed towards God and others, including our enemies, is exemplified in the life and ministry of Jesus. In a world eager to exploit the differences that divide us, the gospel message reminds us that we are in fact one people, equally created in the image of the one and true God. Only through this realization and its life application, can real peace – *shalom* – prevail.

This week, put faith in action by...

Peace, Love, Dove

For centuries, the dove has served as the symbolic ambassador of peace in many cultures. Her Christian roots lay in the iconic story of Noah, where the dove and the olive leaf she bore, were believed to be a sign of God’s forgiveness and grace, a new beginning filled with peace.

This week, help your family create a vision of peace for your home by trying your hands at the ancient Japanese art of origami. The following link provides a video to help get your dove started.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7xtcoibkd4>

Give your dove a personal message of peace to carry close to her heart by inscribing your hope or wish on the inner side of your paper before folding. And then pray for peace!

Cooking Up Some Understanding

Education is our best tool in helping to break down the walls that divide us...but a few culinary skills don't hurt! So why not commit to adding a dollop of international cuisine to your family's all-American main meal for the next seven or so days? Make it as simple as a loaf of French bread or as complex as some homemade chow mien (better yet, support your local restaurateur by ordering out). To spice up the learning, add a side of fun facts about each country's contributions to the world (and maybe even your family) and help make world peace more savory!



War! What is it Good for?

War costs lives, humanitarian crisis, environmental destruction and money. To see just how much the price tag on war is since 2001 follow this link <https://epfnational.org/epf-nonviolence-tool-kit/teach-peace-to-children/> The cost and its split second accumulation will astound you!

After watching the dollars for the loss of creation stack-up, discuss with your family ways this money could be better invested in love in this world and not hate.

Peace Out!

Peace in the world begins with peace in our hearts. "Peace Out" guided meditations are a soothing and delightful way to help your child take their first step on the lifetime path towards inner tranquility. While the "Peace Out" meditations are secular in nature, guided meditation can be effectively used when reading Bible stories to even the youngest of children.

The following link will take you to one of the many "Peace Out" videos available on YouTube. Cut and paste and then get your family ready to be nice and peaced out inside! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TFuFd4iFOY>

Rock On!

In the Old Testament, rocks were used to symbolize God or to represent a place of refuge. This week, help your family remember that God's peace is a rock-solid refuge by painting up some peace rocks. *Planting Rocks for Peace* offers a step-by-step guide for two beautiful designs, as well as an inspirational prayer to offer when you are finished. <http://www.plantingrocksforpeace.org/design.html>

שלום

Or shalom is the Hebrew word for peace. In Judaism, shalom represents a state of harmony, or tranquility, between God, creation and others and is believed to be a gift from the Creator, a blessing.

This week, take the world peace challenge and see how many words for peace your family can find (and even pronounce). You already have one to start! At the end of the week, have a family discussion about what the world would be like if these words were a more frequently used part of planet earth's vocabulary.



Let It Begin with Me

Inflicted pain can take two forms, physical and verbal, and can be directed towards others or oneself. Whether by hands or by words or whoever its victim, abuse can lead to low self-esteem, cyberbullying, suicide, gun violence and even murder.

The following two links offer several non-violent pledges, including one directed towards families, to help individuals and families commit to a lifestyle conducive to the teachings of Jesus and the peace he preached. This week, go for it all!

<https://www.nonviolencett.org/index.php/pledge-1/kids-pledge#:~:text=Kids%27%20Pledge%20%2D%20Non%20Violence%3A%20Begins%20With%20Me&text=I%20promise%20to%20try%20to,by%20being%20a%20good%20listener.>

<https://handsproject.org/our-pledge/>