



Peace & Global Witness Offering Multi-age Children's Lesson Plan

(ages 5-10 with activities PreK might enjoy)
Oct. 3, 2021

Guiding Scripture: "Peace at all times, in all ways." (2 Thessalonians 3:16)

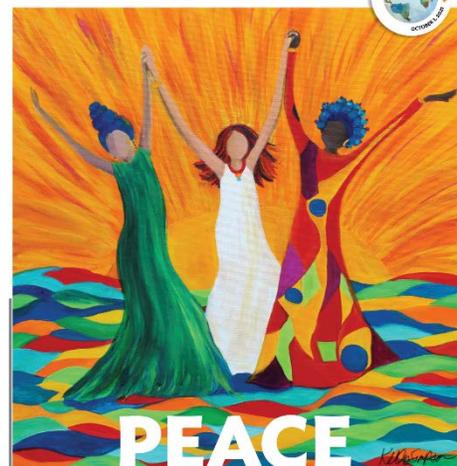
The Peace & Global Witness Offering (PGW) encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.

Lesson Objectives: Becoming Peacemakers

1. Children/families will explore the words "peace" and "reconciliation" to better understand the purpose of the Peace & Global Witness Special Offering.
2. Children/families will explore 2 Thessalonians 3:16 and Matthew 25 to discern how the text motivates their faithful living and what it means to be a Matthew 25 church.
3. Children/families will discover how their congregation and presbytery are seeking peace and justice through the Peace & Global Witness Offering.
4. Children/families will have the opportunity to practice peace by exploring art, music, movement and/or advocacy/action.

Resources and Supplies:

- Beforehand, look over the Resource and Links page on the PGW curriculum page.
- Bible
- Internet/Wi-Fi connection and electronic device to show videos.
- Breathing practices (by [Story & Stretch](#)): Pick One (Suggestions: [Bunny Breath](#), [Balloon Breath](#), [Square/Box Breathing](#) or [Lion Breath](#)).
- A Sanctified Art coloring pages [Peace Be With You](#) and [Peace Prayer](#) — at least two copies for each participant. Both coloring sheets are available on the PGW curriculum page.
- Crayons, colored pencils or markers
- PGW posters in all languages available — on the PGW [Promotional Items](#) Page
- PGW Pie Chart — on the [PGW curriculum](#) page
- [Map of your state](#) with your presbytery circled/highlighted. For assistance, contact [Mid Council information](#) or check out this [Mid Councils Directory](#)



at all times in all ways.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

- Information from your session on how your locally retained 25% of the Offering will be used.
- Information from your presbytery on how the regionally retained 25% of the Offering will be used.
- Pick one way to show “Mend the Bond”:
 - Option 1 — Items to “mend” such as torn paper with tape; torn material with needle, thread and scissors; a broken pencil and glue, etc. Enough items for all participants to break/tear and mend.
 - Option 2 — Access to a digital copy, DVD or Blu-ray of the movie “Brave” to show when Merida confronts the leaders (digital copy timestamp — 1:05:04–1:07:01).
- Learning Station Materials. Use the [suggestions](#) located in the “Practice Peace” portion of this curriculum *and/or* your own creative art, music, storytelling, etc., ideas.

This curriculum is adaptable! Adjust as you need for multi-age or age/grade groups. Older children and youth are perfect assistants or buddies to aid smaller children in coloring, writing and exploring the Learning Stations.

Though this curriculum might be best used in person, it can be adapted to fit online/virtual faith formation opportunities as well. Consider sending any handouts and supplies to your families via mail a week before with a note that the materials will be used during the online gathering Oct. 3.

If virtual — Learning Stations can be offered as a whole group online presentation with an adult or youth facilitating the activities OR consider using “Breakout Rooms” by inviting adults/youth to host/facilitate a room. Example of breakout rooms: Room 1 — Read a book and wonder about images of peace in the book. Room 2 — Read a poem and wonder. Room 3 — Listen to a song or watch a video and wonder. Room 4 — Have a dance party to some of the hymns/songs. After a few minutes in the room, allow the adults to change rooms and lead a new group. [New to breakout rooms? Watch this video.](#)

With a little creative curiosity, children and families, no matter where they are, will have the opportunity to learn about and engage with the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

Entering Activity (10 minutes)

(Resource: A Sanctified Art coloring page Peace Be with You)

(As you greet children and their families, give the children the coloring sheet and invite them to color as you wait for more friends to arrive.)

Once gathered, say:

Let's begin by settling in and becoming part of this moment right here. We will use breathing to start our peace journey today. Peace starts from within, so let's take a moment to find peace.

(Gather in a circle for breath prayer practice. Lion breath is a great practice to visually and physically let go of things that cause the opposite of peace. Bunny breath is also a great breath prayer to help when experiencing anxiety or fear. A simple four count in and four count out or Balloon/Belly breath might be the best practice for you today. Be curious about centering breath practices and pick what is right for you and the children in your care.)



Let's finish our practice by taking a deep breath in and reaching your arms as high as they will go. Touch your hands together and as you let your breath out, lower your hands down. You might notice your hands look like "prayer hands." Stop your hands when they get to your heart. Everyone say "Come, Lord Jesus."

Seeking a Way of Peace and Reconciliation (15 minutes)

Explore "Peace"

Say:

We are going to have a little word-play. I'll ask you to help me understand a word using your body to explain it. Let's go!

- Show me with your face or hands what "peace" looks like. (Peace fingers, smiling face, hand out for a handshake, etc.)
- Show me with your face or hands what the opposite of peace might look like. (Thumbs down, sad or angry face, etc.)
- When Jesus said "peace," what did he mean? (allow for word explanation)

- Now — show me with your whole body what Jesus may have looked like when saying or sharing “peace.”

Wonderful images! You can sit back down now.

Hmm ... I did not see you acting as if you were putting money in an offering plate. I wonder why? We may not usually think about giving an offering as peace or justice, and today we will learn how peace is an offering by exploring the PC(USA) Peace & Global Witness Offering.

Peace is what we understand will happen when we work toward real respect for all people. And ... my friends ... it begins with you and with me.

Our world is filled with the opposite of peace. What can we do to help peace become a daily experience for all? (Celebrate all answers and take time to explore some of their suggestions.)

The opposite of peace makes every day very hard for some of our neighbors. Every day they might experience fear, anxiety, anger and hopelessness. You might know someone who feels one of those feelings. You may even feel those feelings. Many of you showed those feelings with your faces during our wordplay earlier. (Share your own face of fear, anxiety, anger or hopelessness). So, what do we need to find peace? (Pause for their ideas.) Let’s explore “reconciliation.”

Explore “Reconciliation”:

Ask:

Who can tell me what “reconciliation” means?

- This is one of the “big words” used to help us understand the purpose of the Peace & Global Witness Offering. When you want to reconcile something, you try to find ways to compromise or mend something that has been broken.
- (Pick an option to explain “mend the bond” as a way to understand the word “reconciliation.”)
 - **Option 1** — Mend something that is torn or broken. Tear paper and mend with tape. Cut cloth and mend with needle and thread. Break a pencil and mend with glue. Ask the children to break and mend. Ask: Why would we want to mend the bond after something is broken or torn? Why fix a pair of pants instead of throwing them away and buying a new pair? Why not toss the paper in the trash? What can we do with it after mending? Sometimes we break or tear friendships and how we love our neighbor, but how would we mend it? We cannot just put tape on it, sew it or glue it. We need to show love in a different way. The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one way that we can start to mend the broken world by looking for ways to love each other and seek and share peace.
 - **Option 2** — Use a movie clip from “Brave.” Who has seen the movie “Brave”? Merida and her mother had a terrible fight. Feelings were hurt on both sides, and it seemed almost impossible to fix the situation. The problem was so big it caused a ripple effect and other groups of people began fighting. Merida looked for a way to fix things, and ended up making a bigger mess, but she did learn something important. Let’s watch this clip of the movie and listen to what she learns. (Timestamp in digital copy: 1:05:04–1:07:01)
 - Mend the bond torn by pride. I think we all have a bit of pride that keeps us from loving our neighbors and seeking peace like God wants us to. I think that when we learn

more about reconciliation, about mending the bond, we will be able to help our neighbors in need and even ourselves. The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one way we can work toward mending the bond with those around the corner and around the world.

I wonder who might know peace if we give some money to this special offering (collect class offering at this time if that is your practice). Let's see!

(Note — percentages can be difficult to understand, therefore showing the pie chart and pointing to the sections will aid in helping visual learners see the differences in the amount/size. Other ways to aid all learners in understanding percentages is by using four quarters or four buttons/items with each representing “25.” Perhaps provide four buttons for each participant and they separate out one when you say 25% and they separate out two when you say 50%.)

- Our congregation will keep up to 25% of this offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Our church will use the funds by (fill in with how your church will use the 25% retained).
- Mid councils, like our presbytery (show a map of your state with the presbytery circled or highlighted will help children understand the presbytery covers a large area) will keep 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The presbytery will use the funds (fill in with how your presbytery will use the 25% retained).
- The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in our nation and in the world, including support of International Peacemakers.

Exploration of Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 3:16 and Matthew

25:31–46 (10–15 minutes)

(Have a Bible present with Scripture marked or print off the verses you will read.)

Ask:

How many times is “peace” mentioned in the Bible? About 329 times!

The focus Scripture for The Peace & Global Witness Offering is 2 Thessalonians 3:16. “Peace at all times, in all ways.” I wonder what that means to you. (Give time to wonder.) I wonder what it means to be a Peacemaker. (Give time to wonder.)

This letter was written to the Thessalonians because they were experiencing disorder and chaos, bitter disagreement and confusion. They needed help and guidance. There were people who treated them horribly because they were followers of Christ. Some followers of Christ began to doubt their faith. When folks who didn't like them stirred the waters with rumors and lies, it only caused more brokenness, fear and hate. The Thessalonians were given the guidance to seek peace at all times and in all ways. I would imagine it would be very hard, even daring, for the Thessalonians to pray for peace and truly believe it could happen.

In our broken world, we pray for that peace today. We pray the prayers that are daring and filled with belief that God will bring peace and justice on this earth. Praying is a way to become a Peacemaker.

What else can we learn from the Bible about becoming a Peacemaker? We can become Peacemakers by taking care of and loving our neighbors! (Ask a child to read Matthew 25:31–46)

In addition to daring prayers, a way of becoming a Peacemaker is hands on. We are invited to do what we can for the least of these. Give food, clothes, friendship and hope. We can work together to make changes so that everyone knows they are loved children of God. We must do what we can to help discover peace and justice. Special Offerings like the Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages peace at all times, and caring for the least of these.

Presbyterian Churches have been invited and even challenged to be a Matthew 25 church. Congregations are exploring what this means and are discovering that God is calling them to seek peace and justice. Our church (fill in your church status — joined or still learning and discerning) and that is an exciting step toward becoming Peacemakers.

(Note — If your congregation has not already taken on the mantle of the Matthew 25 vision, now is a wonderful time to explore what it means to be a Matthew 25 church. You will likely discover that you are already working in the three areas of the Matthew 25 vision! Involve the children in learning and discerning! presbyterianmission.org/matthew-25)



Practice Peace (20 minutes)

Learning Stations

Practicing Peace can be sitting in silence with God, listening to birdsong, watching wind in trees, seeing the smile on another's face. Practicing Peace can be reading a book that takes you on a journey, singing or hearing a song, pondering art. Practicing Peace can be twirling and dancing. Practicing Peace can be action, praying, caring. Practicing Peace can be ...

Let's practice peace with learning stations. Listen and look. Play and create. Sing and dance. This is your time to practice peace in whatever way you wish.

(Explain what you have set up at each station and they can spend as much or as little time at each station as they wish. Pick and choose what works best for the time you are allotted. If you have ideas other than the ones suggested, share those on the [Special Offering Facebook Group!](#))

(Note — Be aware of copyright laws with the materials you are using. Information about copyright laws and license can be found on the [Resources and Links](#) page.)

Station Suggestions:

- **Spoken/Written Word and Storytelling** — Children's books, Poetry, Create your own skit/storytelling/drama/poem. Suggestions:
 - "[Peace is an Offering: La Paz es una Oferenda.](#)" words by Annette Le Box and pictures by Stephanie Graegin
 - "[Last Stop on Market Street.](#)" words by Matt De La Pena and pictures by Christian Robinson
 - "[Pass it On](#)" written by Sophy Henn

- [“Walking Toward Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman Called Peace Pilgrim.”](#)
written by Kathleen Krull and illustrated by Annie Bowler
 - [“White Flour,”](#) written by David Lamotte and illustrated by Jen Hales
 - [“The Peace of Wild Things,”](#) by Wendell Berry
 - [“Do You Have Time?,”](#) by Mary Oliver
- **Song, Music, and Dance** — Listen, Sing, Play, Dance (Consider having ribbons or scarves for children who wish to dance to Scripture reading, poetry or music. Consider inviting the children’s, youth or adult choir to sing a hymn/song during your class gathering, allowing children to hear the music “live.”) Suggestions:
 - “This is My Song” (Glory to God #340)
 - “A Song of Peace” (Based on the poem “This is My Song” written by Lloyd Stone and Georgia Harkness. Consider using this version by [David Lamotte.](#))
 - “Dona nobis pacem” (Grant Us Peace) in (Glory to God #752)
 - “I’ve Got Peace Like a River” (Glory to God #623)
 - “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” (Glory to God #629)
 - “A Gaelic Blessing (Deep Peace)”; composer: John Rutter
 - “The Peace of God”; composer: John Rutter
 - “Let There Be Peace on Earth”; songwriters: Jill Jackson and Sy Miller
 - “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Glory to God #753)
- 
- **Visual Arts** — Art using a variety of mediums, Photographs, Mural, Sculpture or 3D art, etc., and spend time “wondering” about the art: I wonder what you see ... I wonder what the artist was thinking/feeling ... I wonder how you feel ... I wonder how long it took to create ... Another idea: Children create their own using paint, clay, play dough, building blocks, etc. Suggestions for visual art:
 - Pictures and paintings throughout your church building or home that inspire “peace.”
 - The PGW [Poster](#) — print in the various languages provided.
 - “Peace Be With You” by Sarah Are (John 20:19–31) “In a world that so strongly lacks peace, I was drawn to Jesus’ words from the gospel of John. ... These words of peace are some of Jesus’ first words immediately following his crucifixion. On the tail end of violence, Jesus still whispers peace — and not once, but over and over again, speaking directly to the disciples’ fears.”
 - “Peace Prayer” by Sarah Are (Psalm 122) Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.” For the sake of my relatives and friends, I will say, “peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.
 - “Life Illuminated” by Katie Archibald-Aubbs
<https://lifeilluminated.photoshelter.com/index>
- **Action/Advocacy/Service**
(This is a great time to invite the older children to aid younger children in writing.)
 - Color the Peace Prayer coloring page by A Sanctified Art. On the back of the page, write your first name and age, and write or draw a short prayer for peace that you

class (or the participant) might be praying in this season. Examples of prayers/blessings:

- Create a group prayer of peace by using a [haiku](#) format.
 - Acrostic Poem Prayer — Peace to you and all you see. Each and every day. Aware of those in need. Calm the chaos that consumes the world. Every day keeping you in prayer.
 - Fill in the Blank — (Way to describe God) We give you thanks for (a person, place or thing). We hope for peace that looks like (describe what peace looks like to you). We pray for (name of the person you will send this to) and for the work they do. Amen.
 - Blessing — Bless this day and every day, O Lord, the one who reads these words. Grant them your peace.
- Mail the artistic creations to the local organization that will receive gifts from the Peace & Global Witness Offering your church retains.
 - **Consider inviting someone from the organization that will receive gifts from the PGW Offering to create a short video saying hello to the children and families, sharing some information about the ways they seek peace in the community, and how children and families can get involved in those efforts. Share this video at this Learning Station.

Closing (three minutes)

(Pray with and for each other. Pray for those in your community who are in need and ask how the Holy Spirit might move and equip you as a Peacemaker. Say, write or draw a prayer of your own or use the one provided. Invite a child to lead/read the prayer.)

*Holy One, you come to us in the form of those seeking refuge and peace. You come in the form of a stranger, someone who is hungry, someone who needs a home. Open our eyes so that we see your light in each person we meet. Give us strength and courage, skills of the Peacemaker. Help us to seek peace and justice in this world. May our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering be a first step in ways to serve and love. **Amen.***

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