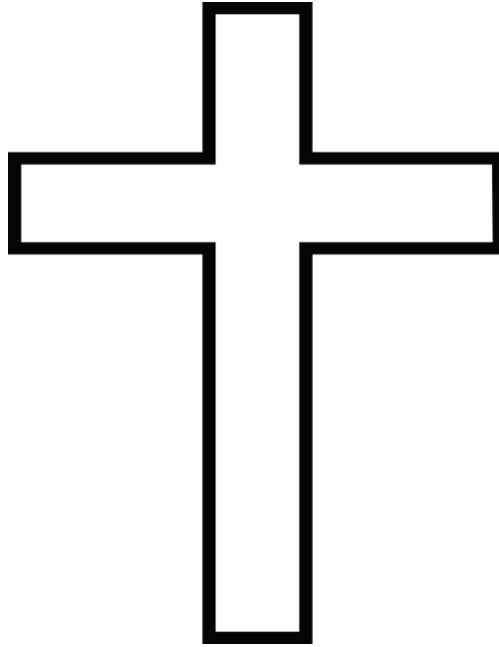


**ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER CHILDREN
(5TH- 8TH GRADE)**

Peace & Global Witness *(CONTINUED)*

Activity A

What does the cross represent?



The cross, as a torture device, symbolizes . . .

In spite of the cross, **Jesus offers peace** by . . .

ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER CHILDREN (5TH- 8TH GRADE)

Peace & Global Witness *(CONTINUED)*

The cross is central to our belief as Christians. The cross represents the suffering, hostility, and walls of injustice that exist in the world. It represents human sin as a result of free will.

In spite of the suffering and the injustice of the cross, **Jesus**—

- offers peace through forgiveness
- offers an opportunity to heal
- unites us with one another
- grants us the hope of new life,
- sends the Holy Spirit, the Comforter and Teacher, to guide us
- fills us with the Spirit's love through peace, joy, gentleness, kindness
- removes the walls of hostility and heals us.

When we extend our hands in the **passing of the peace**, we are making a **visible sign of reaching out to our neighbor with the intention of uniting us**.

“Peace be with you.”

“And also with you.”

Ask the children to stand and pass the peace to each other. As you say these words, think about what peace might mean: forgiveness, healing, unity, joy, etc.

Activity B

Christ's Peace Creates Unity

Paul in **Ephesians 2:14** claims that **“For Christ is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh.”** In other words, Christ brought peace and unity by breaking down the wall of hostility and hatred through the sacrifice of his body.

1. Take a piece of 8 ½” x 11” plain paper and fold it two times in half.
2. On one side, draw a cross that extends from top and bottom of your existing square.

ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER CHILDREN (5TH- 8TH GRADE)

Peace & Global Witness *(CONTINUED)*

3. Cut the cross out, but do not cut where the arms of the cross intersect.
4. When you unfold the paper, you should have crosses that are connected to each other.
 - a) The cross reminds us that we are connected to each other (vertically) and to God (horizontally).
 - b) When you see others suffering, what gifts of the Holy Spirit can you share to help bring peace?
 - c) Write the gifts that you can bring to others on the extended arms of the cross.
 - d) How might we draw closer to God (vertically)? Write words to remember our connection to God.

Activity C (Older Children)

Read Ephesians 2:14-17

Here are some questions to facilitate the discussion:

1. Why do people build walls?
2. Can you think of examples of walls that you have experienced in your life to keep people out or to protect yourself from others?
3. Have you ever experienced a barrier or wall that made you feel like an outsider, a foreigner, an alien?
4. In the news: Are there experiences in the local or international news that demonstrate separation? (treatment of minorities, refugees, etc.)

What does it mean to say, “Christ’s peace be with you”?

In Ephesians, Paul writes, *“For Christ himself has brought us peace by making Jews and Gentiles one people. With his own body he broke down the wall that separated them and kept them enemies . . . By his death on the cross, Christ destroyed their enmity, by means of the cross he united both races into one body and brought them back to God.”*

5. What is our response when we experience barriers or walls that divide us or create outsiders?
6. How might we apply what we know about Christ’s life and teachings to our own situation? Or in the world?

Jesus reminds us that he breaks down those walls through the cross and grants us peace. “For Jesus is our peace; his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.”



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER CHILDREN (5TH- 8TH GRADE)

Peace & Global Witness *(CONTINUED)*

Closing Prayer

Dear God,

Transform the hearts of your people and break down the walls of injustice and divisions. Help this world experience the healing power of your peace. Like water on a wound, may we be ready to forgive, and may we be filled with your Spirit so that others may experience your peace. Thank you for Christ who overcame death and showed us the power of love to remove the barriers and unite us as a family of believers. May we likewise extend our hands in peace through our thoughts, words and deeds. Amen.

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