

LESSON PLAN FOR OLDER CHILDREN (5TH- 8TH GRADE)

Peace & Global Witness

What is the peace that Jesus offers us?

Objective

Peace is the absence of fear, the assurance and confidence of God's abiding and steadfast love that transforms the divisive and destructive force of the cross.

Christ's peace breaks the barriers of hostility and division.

Christ's peace welcomes those far away—the foreigner—and calls them to be members of God's household.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,
Where there are fear, anger and division, help us to experience your peace. May we know with confidence that your steadfast love calls each of us here and that we belong as children in your family. May we experience your love and be filled with the Spirit to share our gifts with others. **Amen.**

Entry Activity

There is an ancient tradition called the passing of the peace that many churches practice after the words of assurance, or before celebrating the Lord's Supper, or at the conclusion of the service. During this time, the members of the church will stand, turn, and greet each other. One will say, "Peace be with you," and the person spoken to will respond, "And also with you."

1. What does peace mean to you? (Give everyone an opportunity to share.)
2. What takes away our peace?

Jesus' Peace

The disciples experienced fear when they saw Jesus, their friend and teacher, killed by the Roman authorities. Jesus, however, later appears to his disciples who are filled with fear and are hiding in a locked room. He reveals to the disciples that he is not dead and says, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19, 26). Jesus then breathes on the disciples and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

1. What would your reaction be if you saw the resurrected Jesus (after experiencing the grief of the crucifixion)?
2. What do you think it means that Jesus breathes on the disciples and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit"?

(Galatians 5:22-23)