



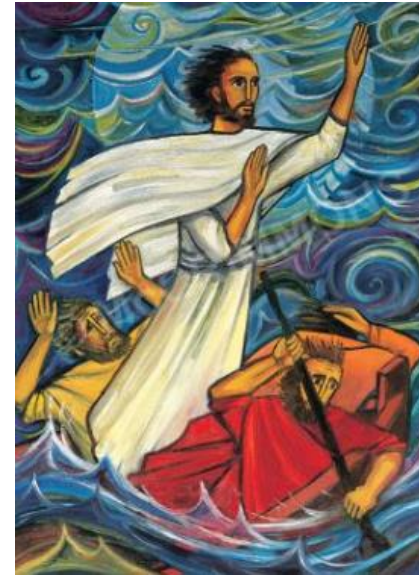
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

Peace - content ideas for Christian collective worship

Definition: *Peace is God's intention for the whole of creation.* The Hebrew term for peace, 'shalom', has a deep and complex meaning, encompassing much more than simply the absence of hostility or war. Shalom includes ideas of healing and health, wholeness and well-being. It means harmony, stability and security within a community. It refers to relationships based on truth and righteousness, where people flourish because they are nurtured. In Jesus' message, peace is an almost tangible element. It is his gift to his disciples. Paul describes God as the God of peace, the Christian message is called the 'gospel of peace' and peace is one of the 'fruits of the Spirit'. Jesus told us not to worry or be concerned about material things for God knows our needs. Anxiety is a denial of peace. It seems that humankind has to learn and re-learn the message of peace. It does not come easily or automatically. We constantly fall back into hostility and suspicion. Peter, quoting the Psalms, says we must 'seek peace and pursue it' (1 Peter 3:11). Jesus blesses those who are 'peacemakers' and calls them 'sons of God'. It is noteworthy how often the word peace is used in parallel with the word 'righteousness'. Peace cannot come by simply wishing it to be the case.
[shalom/peace video](#)

Questions – What is peace? What does it mean in the world and to you? What does peace mean for countries and people living there? What does peace mean to Christians? How can we foster peace in our lives? Why is peace so hard to find?



Key Bible Character - Jesus.

Himself called the prince of peace, Jesus calming the storm is a useful picture to keep referring to. Sometimes in life, we feel as if we are on a little boat out in the middle of a great BIG storm. For Christians, during these times it is important to remember Jesus, who is able to calm the storms of our life, just as he once calmed the Sea of Galilee.

Key Bible verse: Matthew 5:9 'God blesses those who make peace. They will be called his children.'

'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.' John 14:27

	Bible stories and verses linked to peace	Bible chapter and verse	Key message
1	Jesus brings peace to the storm on Lake Galilee Lion Storyteller Bible – The Storm on the Lake p.98	Luke 8:22-25 video	Sometimes in life, we feel as if we are on a little boat out in the middle of a great BIG storm. For Christians, during these times it is important to remember Jesus, who is able to calm the storms of our life, just as he once calmed the Sea of Galilee.
2	Isaiah advises that a child will come one day who will be called 'The Prince of Peace'	Isaiah 9:6-7	The son of a king becomes a prince but the real person who makes them the prince is the king. This is just like how Jesus was called the prince of peace because his father was the true king of peace. We are very much like our parents too.
3	Jesus heals a sick woman (go in peace) – stealing a healing Lion Storyteller Bible – Time to get up p. 100 (first part)	Luke 8:40-56 video	The daughter of Jairus is dying and Jesus is on his way. However, he stops to take the time to find out who touched him and was healed – this may have cost the girl her life as she was very unwell and this was a time consuming wait. But he wanted to say to the woman those important words.
4	The arrest of Jesus Lion Storyteller Bible – A Dreadful Day p. 138	Matthew 26:47-56	Jesus could have chosen the way of violence (he even says he could have called on the armies of heaven to defend him), but instead he tells us that violence only breeds more violence and instead he chooses the way of peace. Being a peacemaker means to follow the example of Jesus. To seek out peace, do what you can to help others and show kindness.
5	The wolf will live with the lamb - a prophet (someone who listens to God) who had a dream about a time when all these groups of animals and people will be able to live together in peace.	Isaiah 11:3-9	Christians believe even now, signs of this kingdom of peace are happening on the earth. There are situations which seem as if they'll never be peaceful and happy like this, but they have been turned upside down, sometimes dramatically. even in our small ways here in school, we can make a difference. We can practise being the peacemakers here, helping settle quarrels between people. Then when we get really good at it, when we grow up, perhaps we'll be in a position to be peacemakers out in the world, helping settle quarrels between whole countries. I wonder if God might be asking any of you to be his peacemakers of today and of the future.

6	The angels sing of peace on earth when Jesus is born	Luke 2:8-16 text video	The good news of Jesus - the gospel will bring peace.
7	The sermon on the mount	Matthew 5-7 video	Make peace with others quickly. Sort out your differences quickly.
8	'I leave you peace. My peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. So don't let your hearts be troubled. Don't be afraid.'	John 14:27	Christians have God's peace available to them, a peace that is greater than anything the world offers. Being worried, anxious and scared can stop us from living peaceful lives. God promises to leave his peace with his people so they don't need to be afraid or worried.
9	Jacob and Esau Lion Storyteller Bible – The Bad Brother p.18	Genesis 25, 33 video	Peace comes through forgiveness and repentance. When Jacob was ready to return, he was very nervous. How could he be at peace with his brother, when he had done so many wrong things? Would they be able to live peacefully? When they met, Jacob tried to give Esau gifts, but Esau just forgave him. This is a beautiful example of peace between two brothers after years of being angry and apart!
10	Abigail the peacemaker	1 Samuel 25:2-35 video	During the time David was running from King Saul, he sent some of his men to ask a landowner named Nabal to share some food and supplies. Nabal was mean and said no and insulted David, who told his men to get ready to fight. But Nabal's wife Abigail was wise and kind! She took David supplies and food and encouraged him not to attack Nabal in revenge. David thanked her for stopping the attack and keeping the peace!

Other free resources on peace to explore:

- God's dream read aloud <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnDDvOkdHgM>
- <https://www.brf.org.uk/topics/remembrance-day/>
- Peace in El Salvador <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Peace-liturgy>
- International day of peace <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>
- https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-07/Oasis_Inspire_CofE_Art%20Activities_v3.pdf
- <https://www.brf.org.uk/product/week-of-prayer-for-world-peace-october/>