



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 2

Life and Action

**Blessed are the
Peacemakers**

Bible Readings

Matthew 5:9

Psalm 133

Genesis 37



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Explain the importance of peace
- Describe ways in which you can be a 'peacemaker'
- Think more carefully about the consequences of actions towards others

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question Why should we make peace, and how do we make peace?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

Peace – What have you done this week to benefit your relationships with others?

War – What have you done this week that has hindered or hurt your relationships with others?

Discussion starter question:

What is your understanding of peace?

Some interesting facts:

- War has killed 2 million children in the last twenty years (from Peace Pledge Union)
- In the last 5600 years there have only been 292 years of peace (from Peace Pledge Union)
- 90 percent of modern war casualties are civilians - primarily women and children (from Save the Children)
- A contribution to the militarization of society is to socialize children into thinking war and violence are justifiable (www.newint.org)
- There are at least 250, 000 child soldiers fighting in armed conflict (www.newint.org)
- Most countries consider young soldiers 'volunteers'. But often coercion is involved - in Uganda around 8000 children have been abducted for use as soldiers or prostitutes (Development Bulletin No. 44, 1998)

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Matthew 5:9 & Genesis 37:12-36

Our world is full of conflict: in our countries, our communities, in our schools and in our homes. Many of us want to make a difference in this world. One way to do so is to become a 'peacemaker', and this starts in our own homes. When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize, she was asked what people could do to promote world peace. She answered, 'Go home and love your family'. Easier said than done, but the wisdom of these words should be taken very seriously.

Making peace at home, at school, in our everyday ordinary lives takes humility, sacrifice and prayer. But anything worth having requires some sacrifice and hard work, doesn't it?

If anyone knows how much sacrifice it takes to achieve peace, it is Jesus. He died so that we could be at peace with God, and have a right relationship with Him. He died for reconciliation and when He says 'Blessed are the peacemakers', He knows how hard it is to be one! But if Jesus was prepared to die

for reconciliation, we should also take the tough steps towards reconciliation. In doing so, we are continuing the work of Jesus.

And don't forget, those who are hardest to love - or to make peace with - are often those who need it the most.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons and daughters of the living God.

Explore – Express

As a group, brainstorm the following two questions. You might like to write the brainstorm up on a whiteboard as you go.

Why it is important to be a peacemaker?

How we can be peacemakers?

Explore – Integrate

Some questions:

- Why is peace important?
- What do you think gets in the way of peaceful relationships?
- Are there any relationships you want to work towards improving?
- Just like we can have peace with others, we can have peace with God. Do you feel at peace with God? Why/Why not?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

For the following prayer, choose one person to say the bold sentences, and the rest to say the italic sentences.

Lord, help us to do and feel rightly,

For if there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character.

Lord, help us to develop beautiful character,

For if there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home.

Lord, may there be harmony and peace in our homes, for

For if there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation.

Lord, may there be order and respect in our nation,

For if there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

So let it be.

So let it be.

Adapted from an old Celtic blessing, found at www.care2.com/greenliving/ancient-celtic-peace-blessing.html