

Peace

**LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH
AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME**

“Mom.....He took my toy.” “Dad.....She hit me.” “Mom.....She keeps looking at me and I don't like it.” “Dad.....he's breathing on me.” “Mom.....Why can't I be an only child?” Does this sound familiar? Chances are, if you have a sibling, you and your siblings might say these things from time to time. Maybe you've also heard your mom or dad say, “I just need some peace and quiet,” or “Please be a peacemaker.” I know my kids would have a lot of money if they got a penny each time I've said these things to them. Sometimes living together in a family can be hard. It isn't always easy to get along and keep peace in your family, is it?

Do you know what peace means? According to Webster's Dictionary, the definition of peace is:

- 1) a state of tranquility and quiet
- 2) freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions
- 3) harmony in personal relations

In this devotion, we are going to look at the 1st and 3rd definitions.

The first definition of peace is “tranquility and quiet.” Can you think of a time you have to be calm (another word for tranquility) and quiet? If you said at church, you are correct. It is important for us to be calm and quiet so we can listen and learn more about God. Are there other times you have to be calm and quiet? Maybe during school? Maybe at home when your older brother is finishing up his algebra homework? Maybe you need to be very calm and quiet while your parents are on the phone. In 2020, we have had a lot of new opportunities to invite others into our home via “Zoom” or “Teams” calls. Have you been on one of these calls for school? Maybe your parents have to work from home and need you to be calm and quiet while they are in a virtual meeting. Sometimes it is very important for us to be calm and quiet.

The third definition of peace is “harmony in personal relationships.” Let's think of some important relationships you might have in your life. I hope the most important relationship thought of is the relationship between you and Jesus. You might think of your relationship with your parents. If you have siblings, you have a relationship with a brother or sister. You also have relationships with your friends, teachers, and hopefully your Point Family. Relationships are very important, but sometimes they aren't easy. People disagree with one another, sometimes we get on one another's nerves, sometimes we argue and sometimes we fight. Like the examples of the siblings at the

beginning of this devotion, it can just be hard to get along sometimes. But it is so important to be a peacemaker.

Did you know that hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the Prophet Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be born and he would be called the **Prince of Peace**? Prince of Peace—that's a pretty cool name, isn't it? Jesus came to bring us peace. The peace that Jesus provides us is so much more than the 2 definitions of peace that we have been looking at. The peace that Jesus brings is completeness and wholeness. The peace that Jesus brings transcends all understanding.

So, if the peace that Jesus gives us, is so big that we can't understand it, should we even try to give it to others? YES!!! ABSOLUTELY!!! Even though we can never, ever, ever, ever be as perfect as Jesus, it is important for us to show His love and peace to those around us, especially those who might be hard to get along with. Jesus wants you to look to him when you are having a hard time being calm and quiet. Jesus wants you look to him when you are having a hard time having harmony in your relationships with your brother, sister, mom, dad, friend, teacher, who ever it might be. It is important during these times of looking to Jesus, in prayer, to be calm and quiet and to pray for harmony in your relationships. You might ask Jesus to help you be a peacemaker in your home. In showing Jesus' love and peace, you will be creating peace and harmony in your heart, your home, and on earth. This advent season, let us practice sharing peace with everyone around us. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

SCRIPTURE READINGS OF PEACE:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. Of the greatness of his government and **peace** there will be no end.

Isaiah 9:6-7

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

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of **peace**.

Ephesians 4:3

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the **peace** of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

“Prince of Peace”

In Isaiah 9:6, the prophet Isaiah prophesies that Jesus will be born. He lists 4 beautiful titles for our Lord Jesus. Which one do you like the most and why?

What are some ways you can become a peacemaker at home?

Are there times you could be calm and quiet to help keep peace in your home?

Are there ways you could help a brother or sister with a chore? Could you help Mom and Dad by obeying the first time they request something?

All of these are ways you can share the peace of Jesus.

Take time to **mediate on God’s word while coloring the Peace on Earth coloring sheet**, and may peace begin with you.

Assemble a PEACE ornament and hang it on your tree or somewhere around your home to remind you to be a peacemaker.

SOME SONGS TO LISTEN TO:

Let There Be Peace on Earth

On YouTube you can find a great 2020 virtual version performed by the Voices of Hope Children’s Choir. Another option is Vince Gill.

Prince of Peace by Hillsong Worship

Glory by Matt Maher

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear by Meredith Andrews



ColorTherapy

Peace Ornament

SUPPLIES:

Scissors
Glue
Thick paper for dove cutout
Feather
Jewel
Ribbon



INSTRUCTIONS:

Draw a simple dove shape on your paper.
Cut out the dove.
Trim the feather to fit the size of your dove.
You may glue the feather to both sides, if you would like.
Glue on the jeweled eye.
Make a U shape out of the ribbon and glue both loose ends to the back of the dove.
Let dry completely.

***Make the peace dove above and hang it on your tree
or somewhere to remind you to be a peacemaker.***