



# 1 Peacemakers Know Peace

## WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME

Jesus says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9), but what does it mean to be a peacemaker? Explore what peace feels like personally and what God’s peace looks like in the world.

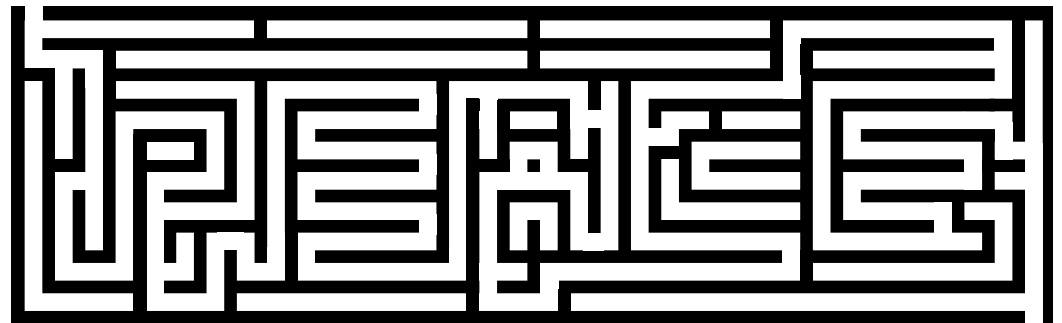
- Write words or draw pictures about what peace looks like, feels like, sounds like, smells like, and tastes like. Share your pictures and words with one another. How are they different and how are they the same? What might that tell you about peace?
- A sign often held at protests is “Know justice. Know peace. No justice. No peace.” Talk together about what that means to you. Reverse the saying. How might that change its meaning?
- Learn about the origin of the peace sign. Read *Three Lines in a Circle: The Exciting Life of the Peace Symbol* by Michael G. Long (Flyaway Books, 2021) or watch the Vimeo video “Three Lines in a Circle” ([bit.ly/FMThreeLines](https://bit.ly/FMThreeLines), 5:12). Talk together about how the peace sign has been used through different periods of time. Design and make a peace sign with words or pictures in it that represent peace or your hope for peace.
- The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s partners around the world created 34 videos as World Communion resources in 2020. Choose several videos at [bit.ly/FMWorldPartners](https://bit.ly/FMWorldPartners) and listen to the voices that share a hope for peace. Most videos are less than a minute or two. Some videos are in languages other than English, but a transcription is below the video.

God of peace, fill my heart and mind with peace so that I may know the peace that you give, the peace that passes understanding. Amen.

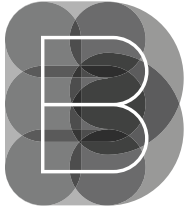
In the prophet’s dream for peace, the lion and the lamb can be friends. Color the picture of the pair and add yourself standing with them. See if you can imagine the word *peace* along the path through the maze.



START



FINISH



## BIBLE STORY

Based on Isaiah 11:1–9; Matthew 5:9

A prophet is someone who speaks God’s words to God’s people. Long before Jesus came, a wise prophet imagined a world where all of God’s creation would know peace.

Peace, the prophet said, would grow like a branch of a tree: strong and steady, strengthened by God’s Spirit. The prophet spoke words that painted a picture in people’s minds. The prophet said that, just as a branch grows from a tree, one day, there would be someone who would guide and lead the world in new and unexpected ways. This leader would have the qualities that the world needs: wisdom, kindness, strength, and faith. They would be someone who cared and listened and spoke the truth, who did not just say the right words, but who changed how people saw things and acted.

The prophet invited the people to imagine a world different from what they knew:

Imagine gentle lambs and big wolves living together, a leopard and a baby goat taking a nap side by side, a calf and a lion playing together, and a little child leading them all, unafraid because all are at peace. Picture a world where no one worries about danger, because all care for one another.

This vision was the prophet’s dream for peace, and it can be our dream too.

Many years after this prophecy, Jesus was born. When he grew up, he tried to help God’s people to know peace. He told stories to explain God’s word and to spread God’s message of peace. Jesus told the people who would listen that those who worked to make peace, the peacemakers, would be blessed and truly know what it means to be a child of God.

