How can God bring peace into a broken world?

*Interact Discovery Sheets*

Devotions

Years 5-8

By Helen Pearson
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God is peace. The peace of God, or shalom is defined by Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance as well, happy, complete, in good health, prosperous, to be whole, and wholly. God is Peace - complete and happy in every way. God’s desire is for us to know the fullness, happiness and wholeness that is God’s nature, and which is offered to us.

God is also a peacemaking God. The stories throughout the Bible show God’s plan to bring about a just and lasting peace between rebellious people and God, resulting in a peace within people, between people, and with our environment. From the time Adam and Eve’s choice destroyed the wholeness they once knew, God has been showing the way back to relationship with God, and peace in our lives. The story of the world climaxes in the death and resurrection of Jesus, who brought God’s peace in a new way. Ephesians 2:14 explains: “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.” Jesus is our peace, our wholeness, the one who completes us, and restores relationships.

This term we will investigate the peace of God, and grow to appreciate that God offers peace to us through our Saviour, Jesus.

Our focus on Exodus will reveal how God saved the Israelites from a harsh regime and took them towards a promised land, where they could know peace - completeness, prosperity and wholeness - in a new way.

Our focus on Mark will show how God saved the world from the consequences of sin and leads us through Jesus to peace with God, within ourselves, with others and with our environment in a new way.

We have peace within ourselves when we are at peace with God; we understand that God has created us for a specific purpose, and seek to live in harmony with God’s purpose for our lives. We have peace with each other by respecting ourselves, and others, and seeking to be peacemakers. We can be at peace with our environment when we respect it as God’s creation, and understand that we are to care for it and work with God in the world. If we have been saved by God’s grace, and submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit’s work of peace in our lives, we will begin to fulfil God’s mission of bringing peace to all creation.
the key competencies are: Relating to Others

the habit of character focus is: Diplomacy

the habit of mind focus is: Finding Humour
the big idea is:
God is peace and wants us to be peacemakers

the key understanding is:
God is peace and wants us to know peace with God, with ourselves, with each other and with our environment

the focus question is:
How can God bring peace into a broken world?
SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

Find the synonyms for:

Peace ________________________________

Peacefulness __________________________

Peacemaker __________________________

Write your own definition for peace

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Write down what you think it means to be a peacemaker

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

Find the antonyms of:

Peace ________________________________

Peacefulness __________________________

Peacemaker __________________________

What do we have if we do not have peace?

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

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____________________________________
First Thoughts About Peace

This term we are learning about Peace. Begin your study by thinking about what you know already by discussing these questions in groups, and writing notes, and questions that arise.

- What does peace look like?
- What is a memory you have of a time you were the happiest?
- When someone is at peace with themselves and their world, what does that mean?
- If we say we have had a peaceful day, what does that look like?
- What does it mean to have "peace with God"?
- What does a peaceful day look like/sound like/feel like to you?
- What does the term "Rest in Peace" (RIP) mean and why is it commonly used for people who have died?
- What was the Peace movement of the 1960s, and what were people searching for? Why? What conflicts were they reacting to?
- Do people in all cultures want peace?
- Do animals have peace?
- What do the greetings "Shalom" and "Peace, bro" mean?
- If we are made in the image of a God of peace, and we all want to be at peace with God, ourselves, others and our environment, what does that tell us about our Creator?
- What are some synonyms for the word 'peace'?
- What are some antonyms for the word 'peace'?
Peace Study

Cut out the headings below and paste each one onto a separate page.

PEACE WITH GOD

PEACE WITH SELF

PEACE WITH EACH OTHER

PEACE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

Read the verses below and write some ideas under each heading.

Genesis 45:24; Leviticus 26:6;
Job 5:23, 24; 22:21;
Psalms 34:14; 85:8; 119:165, 120:6-7; 133:1;
Proverbs 12:20; 16:7;
Isaiah 2:4; Is 9:6, Is 26:3-12, Is 32:17, Is 53:5; Is 54:10;
Ezra 34:25; Hosea 2:18; Malachi 2:5;
Matthew 5:9; 9:5; Mark 9:50; Luke 1:79; 2:14;
John 14:27; 16:33; Acts 10:36
Romans 5:1; 8:6; 12:18; 14:17-19; 15:13, 33;
1 Corinthians 14:33; 2 Corinthians 13:11;
Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 2:14,15, 17; 4:3;
Philippians 4:7; Colossians 1:20; 3:15;
1 Thessalonians 5:13, 23; 2 Thessalonians 3:16;
2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 12:14; 13:20;
James 3:17,18; 1 Peter 3:10,11
Bible Study

As you read the book of Exodus or Mark, choose a thought or event about conflict or peace for each box below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONFLICT OR PEACE WITH GOD</th>
<th>CONFLICT OR PEACE WITH SELF</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONFLICT OR PEACE WITH EACH OTHER</th>
<th>CONFLICT OR PEACE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT</th>
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For you to do:

- Write your own definition for peace
- Write a dictionary definition for peace
- Write what you understand God’s peace to be
We are investigating:

1.0 What is peace and how does it reflect God's character?
Read the verses below and make comments on what they tell us about what God is like:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>God/Jesus/Holy/Spirit</th>
<th>What God Is Like</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Thess 3:16</td>
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<td>Rom 15:33</td>
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<td>2 Cor 13:11</td>
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<td>1 Cor 14:33</td>
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<td>1 Thess 5:23</td>
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<td>Heb 13:20</td>
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<td>Ps 147:14</td>
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<td>Is 9:6</td>
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<td>Lk 1:7</td>
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<td>Eph 2:14</td>
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<td>Rom 14:17</td>
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</table>
HOW CAN GOD BRING PEACE INTO A BROKEN WORLD?

key areas of investigation

We are investigating:

2.0 How has God brought peace to the world in each era of the biblical narrative?
The people in Bible stories are ordinary people who were learning about what God was like and what God wanted them to do. Conflicts arose often between people then, as they do now. Some people solved their problems well and others did not.

Choose a person from the list below and describe a conflict he or she had with God or with others, and any resolution.

Adam and Eve  Cain  Abel  Jacob  
Esau  Abraham  Lot  Joseph  David  
Daniel  Gideon  Ruth  Esther  Amos

Where in the Bible I read about this person ________________________________________________

The conflict I am investigating _____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

What life was like before the conflict _______________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

How the conflict was resolved, if at all  _____________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

What life was like after the conflict was resolved _____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Think about a situation of conflict in the Bible and what you can learn from it.

Name of the person in conflict

What kinds of conflicts happen today that are similar?

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Is there an example of a similar conflict you have had, or happens between children?

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Which of the characters can you relate to in this story and why?

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

What can you learn from this story about God?

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

What can you learn from this story about what people are like?

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________
key areas of investigation

We are investigating:

3.0 How is God’s peace expressed in the books of Exodus 1-18 and Mark?
Reading Books of the Bible

**AIM:**
To read through a book of the Bible for understanding and meaning as a group

**PROCEDURE:**
1. Gather various Bible translations, children’s Bibles, a study Bible, a dictionary, and an atlas

2. Select one group member to act as the teacher. This person’s role is to:
   (a) **TELL** the group how many verses to read.
       "We will start reading at verse __________ and finish at verse__________.”
       At this point everyone will read the passage, either together or on their own.
   (b) **HELP CLARIFY** the meaning of any difficult words or phrases.
       "Does anyone have any words they would like to clarify? Let’s look them up in the dictionary.”
       "What questions could you ask a younger child to see whether they have understood the story?”
       "We need to think of questions that can be answered by reading the text.”
       "Now we will try to answer our own questions together.”
   (c) **SUMMARISE** what the group has just read, giving the main idea, and then inviting other group members to add to the comment.
       "These verses told me that…. “
       "Does anyone want to add to that?”
       "From what we know of God being our source, do any of these verses confirm what you have learnt from the book of Joshua?”
       "Do any verses add any new information?”
       "Does what you have read raise any questions?”
   (d) **PREDICT** what the next part of the passage will be about.
       "I predict that the next part will be about… “
   (e) **CHOOSE** the leader for the next passage. This leader will then follow steps (a) to (e)

3. In conclusion, summarise the book in any of the following ways:
   Powerpoint/slideshow, drama, blog, pictures or symbols, website, timeline, written summary, song, dance, collaborative piece of artwork
The Bible is God’s word. Although the stories, letters and psalms were written to particular people in history, they still speak powerfully to us today.

The place in which we live is very different to the places in Bible times. People are still basically the same – they laugh and cry, joke and play, argue and work just as they always have - but the things we consider to be important have changed over time, and so have the way things are done.

Putting ourselves in ‘others’ shoes’ enables us to understand their thoughts, feelings and actions better, and helps us to understand why God was speaking to them in a particular way at the time.

Compare the place in which you live with the place in which the author or readers of the Bible book lived.

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<th>In our town, we...</th>
<th>In their town, they...</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In our town, God...</th>
<th>In their town, God...</th>
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</table>

Name:
Read the verses below and make comments on the conflicts people faced in the book of Exodus what they tell us about what God is like.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXODUS</th>
<th>CONFLICT</th>
<th>WHAT GOD IS LIKE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2:1-10</td>
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<td>2:11-25</td>
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<td>5:6-13</td>
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<td>7-11</td>
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<td>12-13</td>
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<td>15-18</td>
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</table>
Conflict & Peace in Exodus

Write under the headings examples of how conflict or peace were evident in the story of Exodus 1-18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conflict or Peace with God</th>
<th>Conflict or Peace with Self</th>
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<th>Conflict or Peace with Others</th>
<th>Conflict or Peace with the Environment</th>
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</table>
# Learning From Mark

Read the verses below and make comments on the conflicts people faced in the book of Mark, what they tell us, and about what God is like.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARK</th>
<th>CONFLICT</th>
<th>WHAT GOD IS LIKE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:13</td>
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<td>1:23-27</td>
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<td>2:15-17</td>
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<td>3:1-6</td>
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<td>3:20-22</td>
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<td>8:11-12</td>
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<td>8:31-35</td>
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<td>9:14-29</td>
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<td>11:15-18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Write under the headings examples of how conflict or peace were evident in the stories about Jesus in the book of Mark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONFLICT OR PEACE WITH GOD</th>
<th>CONFLICT OR PEACE WITH SELF</th>
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<tr>
<th>CONFLICT OR PEACE WITH OTHERS</th>
<th>CONFLICT OR PEACE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT</th>
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</table>
Comparing Moses & Jesus

Recall what you can about the stories of Moses and Jesus by marking the sentences True or False.

Moses and Jesus were both chosen by God to lead people  True/False
Moses and Jesus both communicated directly with God  True/False
Jesus was liked by the Roman leaders of the day  True/False
Moses was liked by the Egyptian rulers of the day  True/False
Moses and Jesus both gave laws from God to the people  True/False
Moses and Jesus both died a natural death  True/False
Moses and Jesus both chose 12 leaders to work with  True/False
Moses and Jesus both worked miracles  True/False
Moses and Jesus chose people to continue their work  True/False
Moses and Jesus both healed people  True/False
Moses and Jesus both escaped persecution from the rulers of their day  True/False
Moses and Jesus both lead their followers to a ‘promised land’  True/False
Moses and Jesus both saved people from their sins  True/False

Now write some questions that you have about Moses and/or Jesus.

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Name:

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We are investigating:

4.0 How can we have peace with God, with ourselves, with each other and with our environment?
How Can I Have Peace?

Read the verse given in each box and complete the sentences below:

By trusting God
By loving God’s law
By being meek
By accepting discipline and training
By being righteous
By not being anxious, and by talking to God
By walking uprightly

Isaiah 26:3 says
We can have peace by

Psalm 37:11 says
We can have peace by

Psalm 119:165 says
We can have peace by

Isaiah 57:2 says
We can have peace by

Hebrews 12:11 says
We can have peace by

Philippians 4:6-7 says
We can have peace by

Isaiah 32:17 says
We can have peace by

I’M LEARNING TO TALK MORE TO GOD. NOW I DON’T WORRY SO MUCH!

Name: ____________________________

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The cards below can be used to prepare and present a short drama based on a principle from the Bible, about how we should treat each other. In small groups, prepare a short drama that illustrates the importance of the Scripture on the card. Show how we are to treat each other and how we are to solve problems, using what the Bible says, as a guide.

1 Thessalonians 5:11
Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.

Romans 12:17
Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Ephesians 4:25
Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully with his neighbour.

Ephesians 4:26
In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

Ephesians 4:29
Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up, according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:32
Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Philemon 2:4
Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Romans 12:13
Share with God’s people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

Romans 12:18
If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Proverbs 11:13
A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

Proverbs 25:21–22
If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.

Matthew 5:41
If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.
Being a Conductor

The picture shows God’s Holy Spirit flowing through a person to others, bringing them God’s joy, power and light. Consider the attributes of a person who can be a conductor of God’s Spirit and write these inside the person.

Are you insulated from God or are you a conductor (open channel) for God’s Spirit to flow through? Pray that God will make you the kind of person that the Holy Spirit can flow through to others.
Responding to Others

Write down the key word or point from each passage that tells about how God wants you to respond to other people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leviticus 19:17-18</th>
<th>Matthew 5:7</th>
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<th>Matthew 5:44</th>
<th>Matthew 18:21-22</th>
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<th>Romans 12:21</th>
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Remembering what you wrote about the verses above, ask yourself:

How should I respond...

- when someone hurts me? ________________
- when someone steals from me? ________________
- when someone lies about me? ________________
- when someone calls me bad names? ________________
- when someone makes fun of me? ________________

Name: ____________________________
If we keep a record of how we pray for people, it helps us to remember to pray and to know what prayers are answered. Use the prayer log below to keep a record of the way you are praying for missionaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAMES OF MISSIONARIES</th>
<th>WHAT I PRAYED ABOUT</th>
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Always be joyful. Always keep on praying. Always be thankful no matter what happens, for that is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1Thessalonians 5:16-18 (TLB)