

Peace with Justice Sunday

Preparation: Bring small prizes. Possibilities include a bouncy ball, sticker, pencil, etc. Bring enough for each child to have a prize at the end, but only have one prize visible.

Greet the children as they come forward, and then wait until all the children are seated and attention is focused on you.

I just want some peace and quiet! (*pause*) Have any of you heard a grownup say that? Why do grownups say that?

Allow children to respond.

What do you think peace really is?

Allow children to respond. Children will likely say things like “quiet” or “not fighting.”

That’s right. Peace might be quiet, and peace is not fighting. Peace is everyone getting along. Do you always get along with people around you?

Allow children to respond.

Peace is hard sometimes, isn’t it? It’s especially hard when we don’t get our way. Would it be easy to keep the peace if I were to give (name of child) a prize and I didn’t give (name another child) anything? What might you say?

Direct question to the second child who did not get a prize, but allow others to respond as well. Children should respond with something like “that’s not fair.” If they don’t, help them get there by saying, “If I didn’t get a prize, I might say, ‘that’s not...’” and let the children finish.

That’s right. It’s not fair. When something isn’t fair, people might fight about it and then there wouldn’t be peace anymore. If everything were fair, would it be easier to have peace?

Allow children to respond.



OK. So let's make it all fair. Hand out prizes for everyone. Whew, peace is restored!

Another word we use sometimes for things being fair is "justice." Have you heard the word "justice"?

Allow children to respond.

Today is a special Sunday in our church. It's called "**Peace with Justice Sunday.**" Peace and justice are different things, but it's hard to have one without the other. Today we will share a special offering, and the money collected will help people working for peace and justice in our community and all the way around the world! We want to work for peace and justice because we know all of God's children deserve to live in a safe and fair world.

This week I want you to do something for me. Anytime you start to say "that's not fair," I want you to think about how both peace and justice are important. Even when things aren't fair, we can look for ways to solve the problem while still getting along with each other. Do you think you can do that?

Allow children to respond.

Great!

Let's pray.

Dear God, thank you for loving each of us, your children. Help us to get along with one another and to build a safe and fair world where all your children can live and grow in your love. Bless all who work for peace and justice. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.