

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



*Though congregations may observe **Peace with Justice Sunday** at any time, they are encouraged to celebrate with a special offering on Trinity Sunday, June 12, 2022. This children's message may be adapted to fit the context of your congregation. Tie the fullness of this special Sunday with Peace with Justice liturgy, offering talk, sermon starter and children's activities.*

PREPARATION:

Ahead of time, blow up a regular balloon and water balloon. Put a partially peeled orange in a bowl. If you have students who will be upset by the balloon popping, you can skip that part.

Repeat after me

(pause as needed for children to repeat a phrase at a time):

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

—Galatians 5:22-23a, CEB

Today we are going to talk about the fruit of the spirit that is peace *(as you are talking, begin to peel the orange).*

When we practice being peacemakers, we often are also including other fruits of the spirit like being loving or patient. We act with kindness and try to be good. This brings a sense of peace for ourselves and for others. It doesn't mean that we don't stand up for what is true or what is fair. But it does mean that we try to be peacemakers to bring that about.

Because peace is a fruit *(hold up the orange and place it against your heart)* of the spirit.

Have you ever been in a situation where you disagreed with something that is happening? Maybe something feels unfair, or you are disappointed? *(Allow space for children to share.)*

Those feelings that you have are yours and they are not right or wrong. But I wonder if sometimes you respond to the feeling like a peace breaker instead of a peacemaker.

Have you ever felt like everything inside you might just explode? And you respond by yelling, calling names or maybe even with a temper tantrum? *(Speak very dramatically and while holding the water balloon squeeze some of the orange juice on the water balloon, which should cause it to pop.)*



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

That doesn't usually end up making anything better does it?

(Hold up the regular balloon and squeeze the orange on it, which should not cause it to pop.)

When we practice the fruit of the spirit of peace, we work to consider how to be a peacemaker instead. We practice not exploding and finding other ways to work for peace.

We might ask questions like: why are you doing that?

Or we can say how we feel: when you did this it made me feel sad or angry.

Sometimes you might just need some time to calm down and tell the person you would like to talk about it later.

You might need to find an adult to help you sort it out.

Consider what needs to happen to help you find peace with the other person.

What are some other ways that you keep from exploding?

(Allow time for children to respond.)

Repeat after me *(pause as needed for children to repeat a phrase at a time)*:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

—Galatians 5:22-23a, CEB

Let's Pray:

Dear God, help us to use the gifts of the spirit you have given to us. When we are feeling angry or disappointed, help us to be peacemakers instead of peace breakers. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®