

# KID'S

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## ministry



Community of Christ

## LIVE IN PEACE- Activities

### PURPOSE:

- Learn to read scripture
- Understand that peace can come from the unexpected
- Understand how we strive to be a peace church
- Understand the need to change society gently rather than with force

ACTIVITY	TIME (ESTIMATES)	RESOURCES
<b>Section 1:</b> Peace	3 minutes	
<b>Section 2:</b> Unpacking Scripture Isaiah 11: 6-9	10 minutes	Bible (NRSV), 'Unpacking Isaiah' worksheet (appendix), pens
<b>Section 3:</b> Seals What is a seal? Creating a seal	5 minutes 15 minutes	Australian 50c pieces (with the coat of arms) Community of Christ seal (appendix) 'My Seal for Peace' Worksheet (appendix), pencils
<b>Section 4:</b> Scenarios	7 minutes	
<b>Section 5:</b> Oobleck	15 minutes	Table covers (Plastic, newspaper), Corn flour, water, food dye, bowls, spoons
<b>Section 6:</b> Conclusion	5 minutes	

### LEADING INSTRUCTIONS:

*Read through materials before you start and ensure that everything is printed and activities prepared ahead of time*

*Parts in bold are to tell or ask the group or children. Some answers are provided in case the group doesn't get there*

*Italics is instruction for the leader*

*Recommend doing Section 4 while the group is doing Section 3*



Section 1

# PEACE

## DISCUSSION:

### 1. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF PEACE?

*Freedom from war and violence, especially when people live and work together happily without disagreements  
The state of not being interrupted or annoyed by worry, problems, noise or unwanted actions.*

**Christ's peace was not only the absence of war or a state of calm. Christ's peace often went against the very nature of society. Pushing it to change to be fairer for all. He did this through all of his actions and teachings.**



Section 2

# UNPACKING SCRIPTURE

## ISAIAH 11: 6-9

## ACTIVITY:

*Complete the "Unpacking Isaiah" worksheet (appendix), as you read through Isaiah 11:6-9. Pairing the animals mentioned together. Once the whole scripture is read, go through it again checking the answers. (You might need to explain some of the animals, (asp and adder are both types of snake, kid (goat), fatling (sheep or cow fattened up for eating)).*

## DISCUSSION:

### 1. WHAT ARE UNUSUAL ABOUT THESE PAIRS/GROUPS?

- \*They are not animal that would normally exist in the wild together*
- \*One is often a predator while the other food*
- \*There is a domestic animal paired with a wild animal*

### 2. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WOULD ACTUALLY TAKE FOR THESE ANIMALS TO BE ABLE TO 'LIVE' TOGETHER?

*\*For there to be an absence of conflict between these animals, for them to actually be able to lie or live together, would require a change of the very nature for these animals.*

### 3. WHY DO YOU THINK THE SCRIPTURES SPECIFICALLY USE THE TERM 'CHILD' (BOTH NURSING (INFANT) AND WEANED (CHILD) IN THESE SCRIPTURES AND NOT JUST PEOPLE?

*\*It is often children and infants that suffer most in times of conflict*

*\*They often can't defend themselves*

*\*They are often gentler and more loving.*

**Community of Christ uses this scripture as the foundations of its seal.**

## SEALS

### Section 3

#### DISCUSSION:

##### 1. WHAT IS A SEAL?

*\*Historically a metal engraving that was used to be pressed into wax to seal an envelope.*

*\*Similar to an emblem or coat of arms*

##### 2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A SEAL OR EMBLEM OR COAT OF ARMS NOW DAYS?

*Might be helpful to get them to think about their school and if they have an emblem (what is part of that emblem, what does it mean?)*

*\*It is a visual representation of a group of people and/or what they represent, value and stand for.*

#### Example:

Commonwealth Coat of Arms. (Have 50c pieces for the kids to see).

The Australian 50c piece contains the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. This is the coat of arms representing Australia. It contains a shield with the symbols representing the six states, held up by native Australian animals (Kangaroo and Emu). Which are two animals which can't move backwards easily, symbolising that we are a nation of progress. It also contains the seven-pointed star representing the states and territories of Australia. This coat of arms is a visual representation that tells a little about our country.

*Examine the Community of Christ logo or seal (Appendix)*

##### 3. WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS SEAL SAYS ABOUT OR MEANS TO COMMUNITY OF CHRIST PEOPLE?

*\*That we are a church that will continually strive for peace. Christ's peace. The impossible peace that means changing the very nature of society.*

ACTIVITY:

Recreating a peace seal

Each person draws their own seal for peace. 'My Seal for Peace' (Appendix)

4. WHY HAVE YOU INCLUDED THE ASPECTS THAT YOU HAVE? WHAT DO YOU THINK IT SAYS ABOUT A PEOPLE WHO WOULD USE THIS AS A SEAL?



Section 4

## SCENARIOS

(these can be done while creating seals)

WHAT WOULD YOU DO:

### SCENARIOS

1. EVERYONE IS BEING MEAN TO ONE KID AT SCHOOL. WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
  - a. THIS KID IS OFTEN RUDE AND ANNOYING BECAUSE THEY THINK NO ONE LIKES THEM. DOES THIS MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO HOW YOU WOULD RESPOND?
2. YOU HAVE NOTICED ON THREE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS THAT ONE OF THE KIDS IN YOUR CLASS HASN'T BROUGHT ANY LUNCH TO SCHOOL. WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
3. YOU SEE A NEW FIRST GRADER CRYING, THEY ARE LOST TRYING TO FIND THE SCHOOL OFFICE. WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
  - a. YOU WERE REALLY HOPING TO GET TO THE CANTEEN BEFORE THE LINE



## Section 5

# OUBLECK

The peace that Christ brought was unexpected peace, like a wild predator animal living with a gentile domesticated one. He challenged people to change their very nature of what was acceptable. He pushed against society to create change. And while he did it peacefully (without a sword and shield) he caused enough disruption, trouble and unrest that the people in government and leadership wanted to have him killed.

### OBJECT LESSON:

*Can be done as either a demonstration or get the kids to do it (it will get messy)*

*Mix two parts corn starch with one part water in a bowl. You will have the right consistency when it is solid when you apply force (push hard and fast on it), but still liquid when you try to pour it.*

This oobleck also acts unexpectedly. Sometimes it can seem like a solid (try and roll it into a ball in your hands) while other times it behaves like a liquid (let it run through your fingers). It can be both gentle and strong depending on what the situation warrants, just like peace can.

Add a couple of drops of food colouring and try to get the kids to mix it in (this could get messy).

In order to get the colouring to mix in we can't use force. We can't stir quickly or with vigour. In the same way we can't change society by force, we need to gently guide people to new ways to see the world and their relationships with others. Just as Jesus did. We will never be able to achieve peace through war, where one group of people are oppressing others but by discovering different ways to call all people into reconciliation and forgiveness so we might find a new way to be together.



## Section 6

# CONCLUSION

At this time of year, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This is known as advent. Jesus came and taught us a new way to be peacemakers. Many call Jesus the Prince of Peace. But Jesus did not stand for the simple peace of quiet and lack of wars. He often caused a stir by standing up for those that were mistreated and left out. He looked out for the littlest and the least important for he understood that if it was not peace and equality for everyone then it was not real peace.

DISCUSSION:

1. AS WE GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS, WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CONTRIBUTE TO REAL PEACE, TO CHRIST-LIKE PEACE?

CLOSE IN PRAYER:

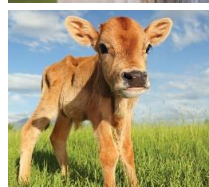
God,

As we prepare for the coming of Christmas help us to be better peacemakers, just like Jesus was. Help us to truly see those around us and the ways in which we can help. Help us to change society through gentle actions like Jesus did, remind us to share kind words those who are sad and lonely and those that make us mad. Help us to include those that feel left out, may we also stand for the littlest and the least so we can strive for peace and equality for everyone, everywhere.

Amen

# UNPACKING ISAIAH

Draw a line to match the animals mentioned in Isaiah 11: 6-8

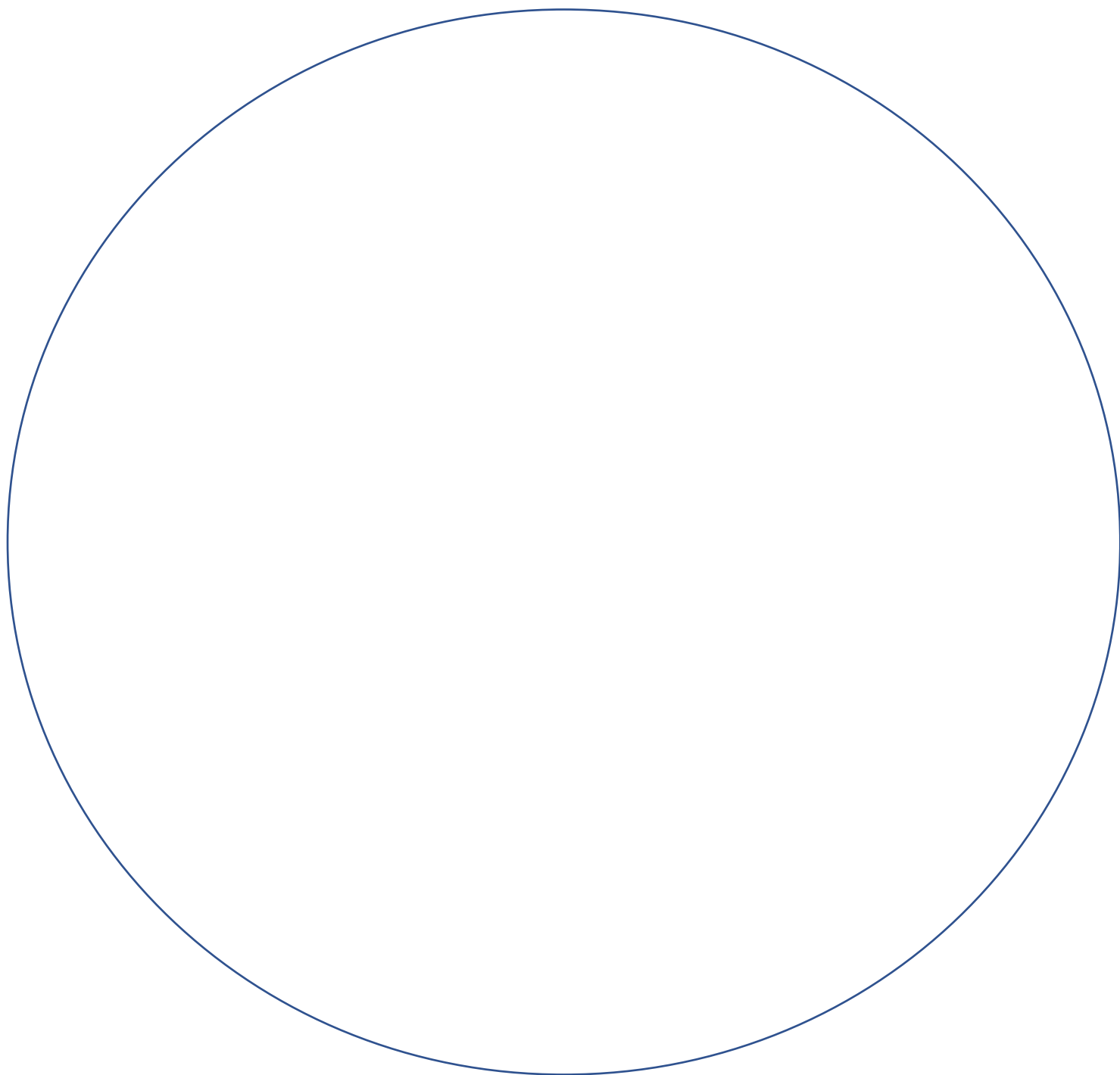


Isaiah 11:9

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.



# MY SEAL FOR PEACE



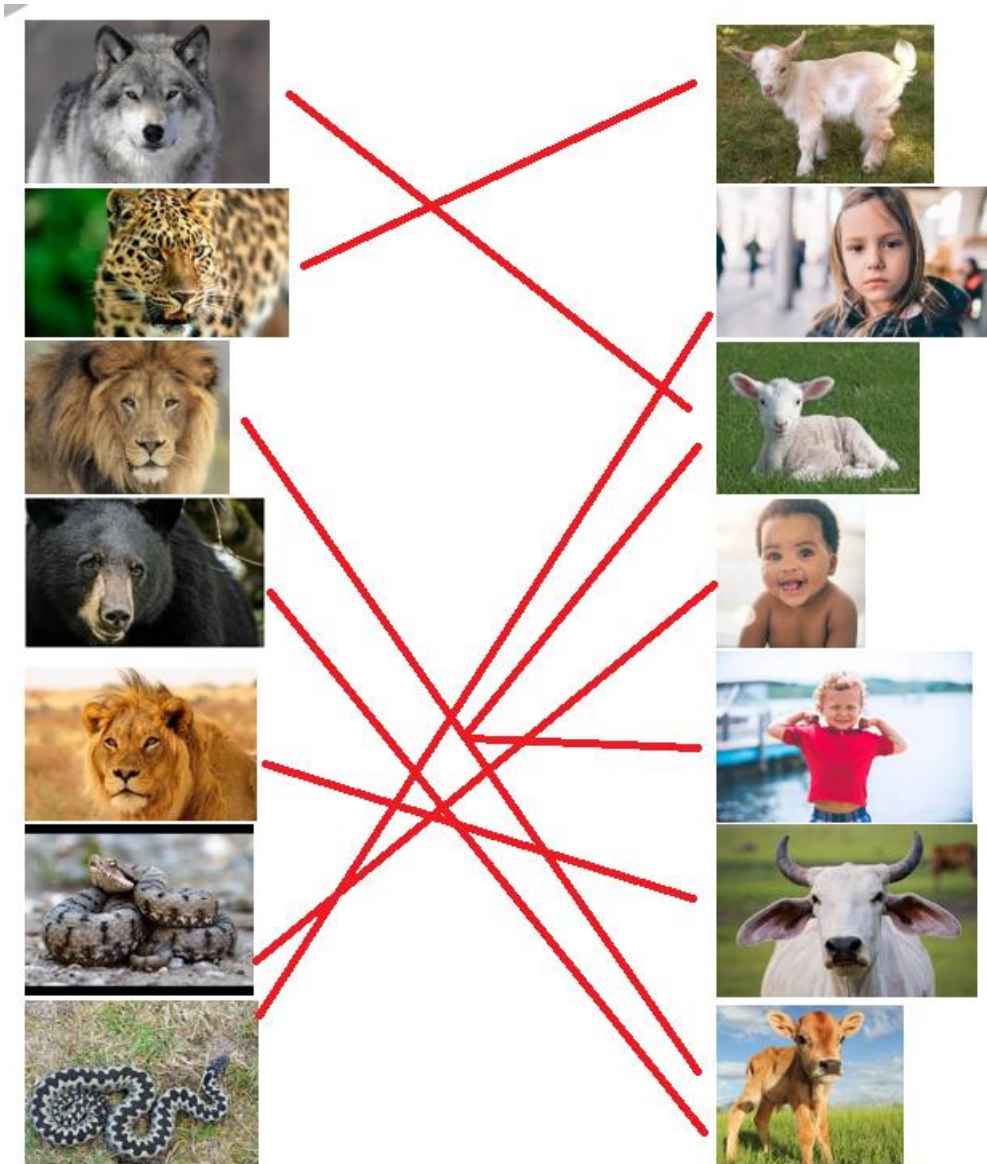
# COMMUNITY OF CHRIST SEAL



Answers

# UNPACKING ISALAH

Draw a line to match the animals mentioned in Isaiah 11: 6-8



Isaiah 11:9

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.