

Standing Together for Peace

If you think about the word 'peace', what do you think of.....

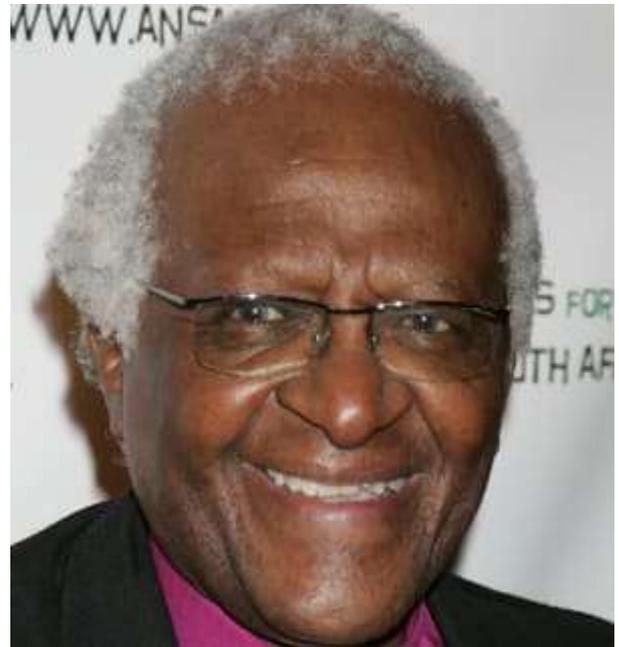


People find peace in lots of different ways but peace actually means 'a period of time when there is no war or fighting, when people live and work together peacefully.' We recently had a Bank Holiday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Victory in Europe day, as it became known, was the beginning of peace. It is especially important that we celebrate peace at this time and be thankful that countries around the world are standing together to fight Coronavirus.



Because everyone has been stuck inside and unable to see their friends and wider family for a few weeks now, I wonder if sometimes you have got on each other's nerves in your house.

If you are having trouble keeping the peace, try using the **Path of Forgiveness**, a way of dealing with disagreements created by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. He worked hard for many years to help resolve unfairness between black and white people in South Africa and won the Nobel Peace Prize (a great honour only a few people ever receive) for his work on peace.



Here's what he said to do:

1. Tell the story (both people say what is getting on their nerves or what they are annoyed about)
2. Outline the feelings (both people share how they feel about it)
3. Both people forgive each other (choosing to forgive, this is not the same as just forgetting/pretending it didn't happen)
4. Restart or release the relationship (go straight back to being friends or perhaps have a 'cooling off period', giving each other a bit of space for a while)



Doves as signs of peace

Doves raise their baby chicks with great care and dedication. They build their nests in areas near human activity, liking to be around people. In many religions, there are stories that associate white doves with peace. Christianity and the Bible describe the dove as a symbol of peace and love. It is the symbol of the 'Holy Spirit', during the baptism of Jesus.

In the Bible story, after the Great Flood Noah sends out a white dove to see if there was any land nearby. The dove returns with an olive twig its beak, which meant that it had found dry land somewhere close by. This brought relief to Noah, who had spent almost a year on the ark. Since then, a white dove with an olive twig in its beak, is considered a symbol of peace.

Activities

Bible challenge

In a Bible or online, try to find the book of John, Chapter 14 verse 27. In this verse Jesus says: *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."*

See if you can find stories that talk about peace or doves – or both!

Did You Know?

Doves and Turtledoves are mentioned over 40 times in the Bible and Pigeons are in 12 verses?

Make a dove

You will need:

- White card
- White paper
- Thread
- Glue
- Gold pen



Instructions

Draw a dove shape on card. Cut out and decorate the dove with gold pen.

Lie the paper flat in front of you. Fold over a piece about 2cm wide. Turn the paper over and fold again. Keep going until all paper is folded.

Cut a slit in the centre of the dove and slide the folded paper halfway through. Fold the top edges of the folded paper up to join one another and glue together.

If you want to hang the dove punch a hole at the top of the wings and tie through a length of thread.

Paper Plate dove

You will need:

- 1 large paper plate
- 2 small paper plates
- Yellow paper
- Sticky eyes
- String

Instructions:

Fold the large paper plate in half.

Make a hole through the centre, and thread through some string. Secure with a knot. This is the body of your dove.

Cut one of the small paper plates in half. Glue one half to each side of the body to form the wings, varying the angle a little to give the bird dimension.

To make a tail, cut a segment from the second paper plate and glue inside the folded body.

Glue on a beak cut from yellow paper and the sticky eyes.

Cupcake case dove

You will need:

- 2 white cupcake cases
- Blue card or card that you have coloured blue using crayon
- Scrap of yellow paper
- Glue

Instructions:

Flatten one of the cupcake cases and cut in half.

Glue one half to the blue card to form the dove's body.

Cut a piece of the frilly part of the cupcake case from the remaining half and glue to the body to form the tail.

Flatten the second cupcake case and cut in half. Glue both pieces on to form the wings.

Cut a beak from yellow paper and stick on.

Finish by drawing on an eye.