

## A season of peace



**Bible verses:**

Luke 2:8-20; John 14:27  
Some shepherds hear about Jesus



**Aim:**

To discover the message of peace  
found in the birth of Jesus



**Today's fruit:**

Peace



In today's session we learn that God promises peace through Jesus.

It can be difficult to find peace in our world. People have many worries, relationships have times of disagreement and stress, and people can be unkind. God promises peace through Jesus – peace with God, in ourselves, with others and on earth.

God brought his peace to the characters in the Christmas story and reminded them that they did not need to be afraid.

### Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper or square, white origami-sized paper – see Action It
- *Explore It ideas* handout

### You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Peace*
- To practise folding a paper dove, if this activity is selected



## Start it

**Say:**

At the time of Jesus' birth, the Roman Empire was powerful and ruled by Caesar Augustus. To discover more about the Roman Empire, have a go at the following quiz. See how many points you can get as you work together as a team.

## Quiz

The Ultimate Romans Quiz by Beano.com

## Sing it

### Say:

The Roman Empire was ruled by ruthless leaders, many of whom were willing to do anything to keep their power. That's not the kind of kingdom Jesus came to create. When Jesus was born, God let the world know that there was a new way of doing things. Let's sing the song together and discover more about the kind of kingdom Jesus came to earth to bring.

### Song

'Go tell it' lyric video by Michael Sanders (3:39)

## Tell it

### Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us of the promise God made to his people. Isaiah shared the news that the Son of God would come to earth to be with us. Let's share it together.

### Read:

**'A child will be born to us.**

**God will give a son to us.**

**He will be responsible for leading the people.**

**His name will be Wonderful Counsellor, Powerful God,  
Father Who Lives For Ever, Prince of Peace.'**

(Isaiah 9:6 *ICB*)

### Ask:

- What do you think the people imagined when they heard the words 'Prince of Peace'?
- How would you describe peace to someone who had never heard of it?

### Say:

In the dictionary there are three definitions for peace:

1. a state of freedom from war or conflict
2. a state of quiet or calm
3. civil order and safety; law and order.

### Say:

When Jesus was born, it was during a time in Roman history called the 'Pax Romana' or 'Roman Peace'. After lots of wars, conflict and fighting, Caesar Augustus reigned over a time of peace, a peace that lasted roughly 200 years.

**Ask:**

Knowing what you do about the Romans, how do you think Caesar Augustus made that peace happen?

**Say:**

To benefit from the Pax Romana (Roman peace), you had to do what Caesar Augustus said, follow his rules, give him your taxes and treat him with the respect he felt he deserved. If you didn't do that, then you were in big trouble. Anyone who didn't follow the rules of the emperor often met a gruesome end.

**Ask:**

Does the Roman idea of peace fit with the description you gave earlier? If so, why, or why not?

**Say:**

Let's read Luke 2:8-20 and find out more about the kind of peace Jesus brought to earth.

**Read:**

**'That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box."**

**'Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:**

**"Give glory to God in heaven,  
and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God."**

**'Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about."**

**'So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them. Mary hid these things in her heart; she continued to think about them. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.'**

(Luke 2:8-20 ICB)

**Ask:**

- What description did the angels give the shepherds to help them find Jesus (v12)?
- The shepherds would have known what Isaiah said about a 'Prince of Peace'; do you think Jesus was what they imagined? Explain why you think that.

## Say:

In verse 14 the angels praised God together singing: 'Give glory to God in Heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God.' Unlike the people of the Rome Empire, we don't have to try to please God in order that he won't get angry or use his power to hurt us. God loves us and sent Jesus to earth for us, to bring a different kind of peace. The peace of Caesar was full of fear. The peace of God is full of love.

## Action it

Display the *Peace* sign.

## Say:

Today we have been learning about peace and what it might look like in our everyday lives.

## Ask:

- What areas of your life are peaceful?
- Sometimes it can be difficult to find peace. What kinds of things steal your peace?
- Now think about your local community, city or country. What kinds of things steal peace from the world we live in?

## Say:

Jesus came as the 'Prince of Peace' to bring us a new way to find peace. As a grownup, when he knew that his death wasn't far away, he said these words:

**'I leave you peace. My peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. So don't let your heart be troubled. Don't be afraid.'**

(John 14:27 ICB)

## Ask:

- How is the peace of Jesus different from the peace that the world tries to give us?
- In what ways could you bring the peace of Jesus to those around you this week?

Share ideas as a group, and then ask each child to choose one way they will try and bring the peace of Jesus to those they love this week. To remind the children of the Advent theme of peace, they are going to make an origami dove. The following clip can be used with the children to help them learn how to make the dove. They can write 'Jesus brings peace' on their dove. If you feel that the origami dove is too challenging for your group, then a dove drawing tutorial is also shown below.

## Video

***How to make a paper dove symbol of peace - easy tutorials*** by White Origamis (4:07)

## Video

*How to draw a dove step by step - dove drawing lesson* by Cutest Drawings (1:51)



## Pray it

### Say:

To bring the session to a close we are going to have a time of peace and quiet.

Ask the children to find a place to sit or lay down to close their eyes. Play the music and let everyone have a moment of peace. When the music finishes, then bring the session to a close in prayer.

## Listen

*'Prince of Peace' Hillsong London Worship* by Hillsong Church UK (2:56)

Ask the children to bring to the next session an item that brings them joy.



## Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



## A season of peace

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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John 14:27



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**Today's fruit:**  
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### Discover

Watch the Horrible Histories clip about the Rotten Romans (especially the first two sketches).

**Rotten Romans compilation** by Horrible Histories

Some of the Roman emperors didn't like those who followed Jesus and went to a lot of effort to silence the Christians. Why do you think the Roman leaders saw Jesus, the Prince of Peace, as such a big threat?



### Discuss

Spend time chatting with someone from home. Ask them what kind of things steal their peace. Share with them all you have discovered about Jesus bringing peace to the world.



### Song for the week

'Go tell it' lyric video by Michael Sanders



### Memory verse

'A child will be born to us.  
God will give a son to us.  
He will be responsible for leading the people.  
His name will be Wonderful Counsellor,  
Powerful God,  
Father Who Lives For Ever, Prince of Peace.'

(Isaiah 9:6 ICB)

Remember to bring to the next session an item that brings you joy.

Kids Alive! Online – [salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive](http://salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive)

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children & Youth

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## Memory verse

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## Start it

Today we will hear all about the message of  
peace the angels brought to the shepherds.



## Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Luke 2:8-20  
or watch the following clip.

***The story of Christmas (Jesus and the  
shepherds)*** by Saddleback Kids (2:25)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share  
together:

- On the night Jesus was born, what were the shepherds doing?
- Who came to visit them and what did he say?

- How did the shepherds react when they heard the news from the angels?
- What did the angels sing?
- What did the shepherds do after they visited Jesus?



## Sing It

**'Hark! The herald angels sing'** Christmas  
dance-along for kids by CJ & Friends (1:13)

**'Jesus Song'** by Saddleback Kids (2:45) This  
song tells us about the amazing thing Jesus  
did.



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible  
passage:

- Create a Christmas card showing the shepherds listening to the angels sing.
- Without saying a word or making a sound, act out the story of the angels visiting the shepherds.
- Think of one thing you would love to tell the world about Jesus.
- Make up your own Christmas song to a tune you already know.