

Peace Sunday 2005 - "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Idea for working with children - Hands for Peace

This activity is to help the children think of the "good" things that can overcome bad or evil things in our world.

You will need

- Cards with the following words on and some blanks.... *Love, Heal, Celebrate, Share, Respect, Together, Forgive...*
- Blank paper and coloured pencils
- A large sheet of paper or card for mounting finished work

Approach

Ask the children to spend a few moments thinking of ways in which relationships between friends, family members, people from different countries, can sometimes go wrong. Give them a chance to share their ideas and capture words that describe these things.

How might these be put right? What good things have to happen?

Share the words on the cards and ask them to add any other words of their own to help generate discussion.

Now, invite all of the children to draw round the outline of their hand on a piece of paper. In the centre they write the words: "*good is stronger than evil*". On their fingers, they write the words that to them are the most important in making things right.

All of these hands are turned into a frieze to be presented in the Mass or liturgy. This work can be presented in a procession, with all of the children carrying or following the frieze.

Prayer to accompany this:

Child 1: Today we have come together to pray for peace in our world. Jesus sends us out to be his followers, to bring light to the world.

Child 2: We have a mission, a special job to do.

Child 3: Our mission is to go out in love and spread peace in the world.

Child 4: Our mission is to go and heal others.

Child 5: Our mission is to celebrate our gifts and our differences.

Child 6: Our mission is to share with children everywhere, especially the poor.

Child 7: Our mission is.... add other words that the children have written on their hands...

Together: Today we pray for an end to fighting, war, and violence, and we ask that all children may grow up in peace. Let us shake hands and share peace together.

*(Adapted from Hands for Peace: A week of prayer
from Mission Together www.missiontogether.org.uk)*

Prayer for peace

Dear God, we thank you for giving us your peace. Let us join hands as we pray for peace for our families, our friends and for ourselves.

Reponse: **Lord, hear our prayer**

Help us to spread peace at home and at school, by loving and caring for everyone. **R/**

Help us to spread peace, by forgiving each other whenever we can. **R/**

Help us spread peace by making life good for others, especially those who are lonely and in need of a friend. **R/**

Help us spread peace by thinking and praying about children around the world who have no food, who are frightened and live in fear. **R/**

Help us to spread peace by sharing people's happiness as well as in their sadness. **R/**