



Remembering (adapted from BRF Messy Church Resources)

On the 11th of November, we remember those who have lost their lives fighting in wars to give us the freedom we enjoy today. It is important to be silent at 11 o'clock for two-minutes if we can.

Remembrance time is also an opportunity to think about peace as well as well.

Bible Verse

God blesses those people who make peace. They will be called his children!
Matthew 5:9

Some questions to think about

What are we remembering on Remembrance Day?

What difference should this day make to each of us?

What does being a peacemaker involve? What did it mean for Jesus?

Activities

Make your own poppy cross

A poppy attached to a Christian cross is a bringing together of the remembrance symbol the poppy and the chief sign of the Christian faith. Jesus died on a cross, and God understands and shares in the suffering of the world, including all the pain and loss that comes through war.



Draw a cross on a piece of paper and cut out. Now make a poppy out of pieces of red and black tissue paper and stick onto the centre of the cross.

Talk about: What do you think about when you see a poppy?

Bible verse:

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

When someone's death in a war has helped secure peace for others, it reminds us of the death of Jesus bringing us peace with God.

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You can also make a poppy from a straw and two paper cases. Hold the straw and cases together with a paper fastener. Stick a black circle to cover the brass dot. Also you can use layers of red tissue paper to create a poppy by tying the paper in the middle with wire or a pipe cleaner and teasing out. You can use black paper to create the centre.



Make a peace sculpture

In many towns and cities around the world, there are often monuments built to commemorate wars, including statues of soldiers and famous battles.

What do you think would a statue to peace look like?

Use play dough and use this to shape a mini-sculpture on the theme of peace.



Here are some sculpture ideas: a dove, an olive branch, a candle, broken weapons.

or the Adrinka symbol from West Africa for peace, which literally means 'no one should bite another'

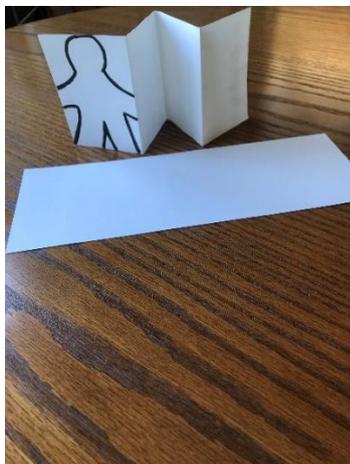


Talk about: What comes to your mind when you think of 'peace'?

Build a bridge

Using a collection of cardboard boxes etc , build a bridge over an imaginary canyon or river. Making peace is often likened to building bridges between people. A good example from the Bible is Abigail, who made herself the peacemaker bridge between her husband Nabal and David. You can read about this in 1 Samuel 25.

Talk about: Have you ever had to act as a peacemaker?



Peace Chain



Take a piece of thick paper or card. Measure 30 cm x 11cm and cut out. Fold the paper in half. With the fold on the left, fold in half again to the front and half again to the back. It will zigzag in and out. Hold the folded piece together with the top fold on your right. Draw a figure on the top piece with arms extending out to the fold. Carefully cut out through all layers of the paper keeping the fold intact at the arms

Write on each of the figures in turn starting with the top figure

'Peace' **'Let it'** **'Begin with'** **'Me'**. Place your figures where you can see them to remind you that you can help to bring peace.

Prayer

There is a recognised international prayer for peace. It has actions too.

Lead me... from death to life (*hands crossed over body and then hands raised above the head*)

... **from falsehood to truth** (*one hand close to the mouth, suggesting a cruel whisper, and then both hands with thumbs up next to the mouth suggesting the truth*)

... **from despair to hope** (*one hand on the forehead in despair and then the same hand shading the eyes, looking out to the future in hope*)

... **from fear to trust** (*two hands by the mouth expressing terror and then both hands open in front of the body expressing trust*)

... **from hate to love** (*one hand raised as a fist and then two hands over the heart*)

... **from war to peace.** (*one hand shaped like a gun and then two hands linked by the thumbs, palms inward, creating a dove of peace*)

Let peace fill... our heart (*the hands still as the dove of peace near to the heart*)

... **our world** (*hands as the dove of peace making a small circle away from the heart*)

... **our universe.** (*hands as a dove of peace making a much larger circle away from the body*)

A song

Here are some new words to the tune of 'Remember you're a Womble'(!), courtesy of Humph Baker: Challenge an adult in your family to sing it!

*When the sun doesn't shine
And it's cloudy and grey;
Yet it's just the beginning
Of a very special day;
And you've bought yourself a poppy
For Remembrance Day...*

(Chorus)

Remember, remember, remember, remember, remember, remember –

Remember to be thankful (echo)

Remember to be grateful

Remember to be prayerful

Remember to be thankful.

Remember, 'member, 'member

How much Jesus loves us all.

When it's sad and lonely when

Your friends are away;

And all those we have loved

Can no longer stay.

'Cos it's time for them

To go to heaven to pray...(Chorus)