

Chapter 16 Promote Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Matthew 5:9

To the Parents:

In chapter 16, your child learned the following:

- Peace is not the absence of violence but the product of working for justice.
- Christians have an obligation to be the peacemakers, to spread peace through the world by working for justice.
- Jesus' coming into the world to bring peace began God's reign on Earth.

Jesus knew the value of peace, and he wanted his friends to receive his peace, which goes beyond what the world can offer. Jesus desires his followers to experience the peace that comes to those who seek to forgive rather than to punish, to reconcile rather than to reject, and to treat those who differ from them with care and respect rather than with hatred and scorn.

People of peace shun violence, vengeance, and cruelty. They find ways to resolve conflicts without resorting to angry confrontations. They seek to “turn the other cheek,” as Jesus urged, when wronged. They know that peace cannot exist among people without honoring the rights and opinions of others. They have learned that peace cannot prevail without the presence of justice. Followers of Jesus seek ways to bring justice and peace to their families, neighborhoods, and countries.

With Your Child:

1. Read the passage in which Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah (*Luke 4:16–21*) and talk about what Isaiah's words mean and Jesus' last comment.
2. Jesus urged people to “turn the other cheek” when wronged. Talk with your child about non-violent ways of responding when others offend you.
3. Together build a monument to peace by finding newspaper or magazine stories of hope and peace in the midst of turmoil and violence. Cut and paste them onto poster board and display it for all to see.
4. Read about Cesar Chávez on the Review and Explore page.