

INNER PEACE

Set aside five minutes each day this week to meditate quietly on what you can do to be a peacemaker. Use one of these brief prayers as a meditation starter.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss.

PSALM 85:11

Let justice surge like water, and goodness like an unfailing stream.

AMOS 5:24

O Lord, make us children of quietness and heirs of peace.

SAINT CLEMENT

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

To be a peacemaker, you must work for justice. One way to do that is to identify the causes of problems and then think of practical steps to solve them. In the space provided, name three problems in your community, identify their causes, and think of a just solution for each.

Problem

Causes

Just Solution

1. _____

1. _____

1. _____

2. _____

2. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. _____

3. _____

Determine whether the following statements are True or False. Circle the correct answer.

1. Jesus condemned injustice.

True False

2. Some human beings have basic rights, but not all.

True False

3. Jesus chose to be with the rich rather than the poor.

True False

4. According to Church teaching, Christians must respect the rights of others.

True False

5. According to Church teaching, Christians must respect the property of others.

True False

6. The idea of justice is based on the seventh commandment.

True False

BE LAST TO BE FIRST

When we entered the house where we would be staying, a crowd had already gathered to hear Jesus speak. With all the commotion, none of us noticed a little child wedged into the corner, frightened by all these strangers.

Jesus went to her immediately. Gently, he took her into his arms. She was a tiny thing with big, solemn eyes.

Speaking to the crowd, but looking at us, Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes a little child like this one in my name, welcomes me. Whoever wishes to be first in the kingdom must be the last of all and the servant of all."

These shocking words really made me think. Jesus was comparing himself to a completely powerless person. He was explaining that his kingdom is not about commanding armies, or ordering people around, or having one's own way. He was saying that the greatest person in the kingdom is the one who is a servant to all.

I knew he was talking to us, but it took a long time before I understood what he meant. Not until after Jesus had given up his life did I see that the one who stands highest in God's kingdom is the one who is humble, the one who willingly sacrifices for the benefit of others.

Adapted from LUKE 9:46-48