

NEMC Family Day Summer 2021

Date: August 7 or 14 (Pastors use discretion for your weather and time of day) – 2 hour limit

Day of IN-PERSON fun for your whole congregation

NEMC will provide the outline of activities, worship, fellowship and fun (SEE BELOW)

Bag lunches to eat outside but no communal food

Can Sing Outside

Follow Up with WHOLE NEMC worship – Sunday, August 15th 11am with John Wight speaking.

Designate a spokesperson for your congregation to share favorites and take away on Sunday, August 15th for NEMC Zoom Church service

All resources were pulled from: <https://www.cofchrist.org/reunion-resources-2021>

DISCOVER PEACE HERE

SCRIPTURE—LUKE 17:20-21 Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, “The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.”

Think of places in your life. A place is someplace you go. Brainstorm a list. It could be a school, coffee shop, street, church, campground, etc. • Are any of these places special? • What makes them special? • Why do people get together in those places? • How is the place designed to make it easy or difficult for people to interact? Use the graphic at the end of this lesson to help understand the difference between spaces that encourage interaction and those that don't. (Print page 10 of Youth Lessons)

Activity: The idea of a special place runs through the scriptures. Examples of such places are the Garden of Eden and the Promised Land. Have participants brainstorm special places in the Bible. God creates a place for humanity and covenants with humanity for the good of humankind. Humans break that covenant and are exiled. God seeks another human and again offers a place and creates a space through covenant. Humans again break their promises and are exiled. What turns each ordinary place into a sacred place and space? Refer to the definitions presented at the beginning of the material. • God's covenant with humanity. • Humanity's efforts to live together in covenant with God. Now go and design a place representing ideas for providing space and place for God to be among you.

Materials Needed: Building materials for each small group. Examples: Legos, Lincoln Logs, blocks, magnetic building blocks, Play22, Squigz, marble runs, Dado Squares, pool noodles. Homemade or natural materials: sticks, rocks, pinecones, damp sand and forms, toothpicks and marshmallows, cheese balls (or other food to hold the toothpicks in structure), cardboard boxes, paper or cardboard and string.

Group sharing Offer “building” materials as a catalyst for conversation and inclusivity for all ages. Use materials that are readily available so that each group can build or create something through their sharing. (See examples previously suggested.) Form small groups by gathering around a set of materials (or in a breakout room if the community is online). Invite people to share from their time of reflection.

Make sure to draw attention to the Community Covenant and its role in creating safe space. As each one shares in a group, encourage them to add a piece or two to whatever is being built in the group.

[Campfire Song](#): We're all together again

GROW PEACE HERE

SCRIPTURE—MARK 4 :3-9 “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

Read the scripture aloud. Present the poster with the blank chart found at the end of this lesson ([Page 14 in Youth Lessons](#)). Give each student several sticky notes. Review the definitions of space and place as defined earlier in the week. Ask youth to reflect on the places in their lives. Have youth write places in their lives that represent the different soils in the scripture on sticky notes, one place per note. Have participants put their sticky notes in the correct column on the chart. They can put the same place in more than one column. Example School might be thorny—a place where faith feels choked out. It can also be a good soil—a place where they receive a lot of support from friends and adults. Review the different answers on the chart. Discuss with participants why certain places in their lives might represent the different kinds of soil.

Activity Have small clay pots available at tables around the room with materials for decorating. Invite participants to decorate their pots with messages of peace. At other tables, have potting soil and small flowers available to plant in the pots when they are done. Encourage them to place their planted flower somewhere in: their home (or around the campgrounds) to remember the beauty that comes from peaceful acts.

Song: “Spirit of the Living God” CCS 567

PRACTICE PEACE HERE

Scripture: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. —1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Naming our Gratitude: We belong to one another. Invite the community to shout out the names of people, present or absent, living or deceased, for whom they are grateful today.

Group sharing: Unity in Diversity is one of Community of Christ’s Enduring Principles. This means that even though we are different we are committed to talking through our disagreements and being respectful of each other. Play a game to show students that we are all different but we can still be friends. Play “Four Corners.” For each question, children move to a corner of the room to represent their choice. This can be adapted to play online. • Is your favorite season winter, spring, summer, or fall? • Is

your favorite color pink, blue, red, or something else? • Is your favorite subject reading, math, science, or something else? • Is your favorite sport soccer, baseball, football, or something else? • Is your favorite pizza topping cheese, pepperoni, sausage, or none of those? • Is your favorite activity playing outside, watching TV, playing video games, or something else?

Music: We Are One in the Spirit CCS 359 OR I've got Peace Like a River

DISCERN PEACE HERE

SCRIPTURE Be Still, and Know That I am God (Psalm 46:10)

Do some yoga poses together. Search online for “yoga for kids,” or try some of these poses: • Tree pose: Stand on one foot with the other foot touching the standing leg. Raise both hands above your head and touch your hands together. • Dog pose: Place both hands and feet on the floor, with your back and legs straight. Your body will be shaped like a triangle. • Cat pose: On your hands and knees, arch your back like a cat. • Cow pose: On your hands and knees, bend your back low like a cow and raise your head. • Star pose: spread your arms and legs wide. Today we are talking about inner peace. This means feeling peaceful inside ourselves.

Read The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld or Straw by Amy Krause Rosenthal. The Rabbit Listened is about bringing peace to others by listening to them. Straw is about celebrating the joy of slowing down. Both stories lend themselves to a conversation about finding inner peace. Read Psalm 46:10. Discuss: • What does it mean to have peace within ourselves? • What did the characters in the story do to find peace? • How can God help us find peace? • When do you feel peaceful? • When do you not feel peaceful? • What do you do to help you feel peaceful? Practice stillness: Invite children to lie on the floor and close their eyes if they are comfortable. You can play quiet music. Encourage children to take deep, slow breaths and feel themselves relax from head to toe. Continue for a few minutes. Afterward, discuss how the kids felt. Was it difficult to stay still and quiet?

Labyrinths can be very large, or they can be drawn on a piece of paper. You can trace a labyrinth with your finger. Labyrinths represent the journey toward your inner thoughts and feelings, and back out again to the world. If possible, show the children pictures of labyrinths, including the one at the Community of Christ Temple.

• Color a labyrinth that is printed on paper and trace it with your finger.

(<https://www.cofchrist.org/common/cms/resources/Documents/Labyrinth-Resource.pdf>)

Print page 5)

Music: My Peace CCS 145

CREATE PEACE HERE

SCRIPTURE Let the Peace of Christ Rule in Your Hearts (Colossians 3:14-15)

Play "Helping Hands." Give each child a beanbag or other object to balance on their head while they walking around the room. If someone drops their object, they have to freeze. Any other player can stop and help them by gently tagging them. The tagged child is then unfrozen and can pick up their beanbag and start playing again. In this game, no one is "out" for long because a helper can always get them back "in."

Make Friendship Bracelets – Page 21 of Children's Activity Guide

Music: Allelu, Praise ye the Lord

Mission Prayer: God, where will your Spirit lead today? Help me be fully awake and ready to respond. Grant me courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace. Amen