

**Peace: Mission of Peace**  
**Week Seven**  
**Upper Elementary (Ages 8-11)**

**Materials Needed:** One pre-made foam visor per child and decorating materials (glue, glitter, foam shapes, foam stickers, markers, etc.) Pre-made foam visors are about \$1/piece. You can make them using a piece of craft foam and the visor template shown on the last page of this lesson plan. String or a short piece of elastic can be used in the back; however, homemade visors are only slightly less expensive than the pre-made ones.

**Lesson 1: Review**

[Review theme and previous lessons, as appropriate. Review checklist removed.]

**Lesson 2: Jesus and His Mission of Peace**

Prompt: Today, we're going to talk about another peace story. In this story, Jesus is giving instructions to a large group of people. Jesus was planning to travel to various towns, sharing his message of peace and love. He wanted his friends and followers to go ahead of him, so people in the towns would be ready for him when he arrived. Let's see what he said.

**Read:** Luke 10:1-4

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

Prompt: This passage says that Jesus appointed 70 people to go out and prepare the way for him. We're not sure if there were exactly 70 people or not, but there were probably quite a few of them. What does the phrase "I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves" mean? [Help them sort through this metaphor. Do wolves like lambs? [They like to eat them.] If Jesus' followers are the lambs, then who are the wolves? [The people who don't like their message.] Etc.]

Prompt: So these followers of Jesus knew that everyone was not going to like their message, but they wanted to go anyway. Have you ever felt like you were around a group of people who didn't really like you? What did you do? [Share]

Prompt: Jesus also tells them to carry no purse, no bag, and no sandals. What do you think he's trying to say there? Do you think he really wants them to go barefoot? [No right or wrong answer here. Just let them explore. Maybe he wanted them to travel light, so they could be focused on their message instead of their stuff. Maybe carrying very little was as a sign of humility. Maybe it was to avoid being showy – so they wouldn't look like a circus coming into town. Maybe it was to set an example about what is really important in life. Or maybe he really did want them to barefoot for some reason.]

Prompt: Have you ever traveled somewhere before? Was your suitcase filled to the brim? Was it heavy? Did you bring too many things or not enough? [Share]

Prompt: The last thing Jesus says is that they are to greet no one on the road. What about that? Doesn't that seem a bit rude? [No right or wrong answer here either. Maybe Jesus didn't want them to get distracted. They were on a mission after all. It wasn't supposed to be a vacation.]

Prompt: Here is the last set of instructions Jesus gave them.

**Read:** Luke 10:5-9

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

Prompt: What were the disciples supposed to say when they entered a new town? [Peace to this house!]

Prompt: What does it mean to bring peace to a house? What does that look like? [Try to get them to realize that peace is more than the absence of war. Peace is an active process of bringing non-violence, acceptance, and fairness to all situations. Peace is also a relaxed state of mind, an inner silence filled with the power of truth. This is why many people are calling for an actual Department of Peace in Washington D.C.]

Prompt: Do you know anyone who brings peace in those ways? [Share]

Prompt: Do you bring peace to your house? To your school? To our class? Do you have examples of how you've done that? How could you do that in the future? [Share]

Prompt: What do you think Jesus means when he says if the person does not share in their peace, "it will return to you." [Again, no right or wrong answer here. Maybe that people can't take the message of peace away from you – even if they don't like the message. Maybe that you can give peace away, but no one can take it from you – the message of peace is always yours to offer.]

### ***Creative Response 1: Traveling Hat***

Prompt: Even though Jesus told his followers to carry very little, we're going to make something that you might need to pack when you travel. It's a sun visor – something that might have come in very handy if you were traveling in desert areas like Jesus' friends did.

Give each child a pre-made visor and let them decorate it. Technically, they can decorate it any way they want, but it might be better if they could related it to theme of the day by writing "Peace" on it or drawing symbols of peace (like a dove or peace sign).

We happen to have foam stickers around, but markers work quite well on craft foam. We usually don't use glitter glue, because it doesn't dry very quickly, but we do use old-fashioned glue with glitter. It makes a bigger mess during the project, but parents find it less annoying when taking crafts home in the car.



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### ***Lesson 3: Others on Missions of Peace***

Prompt: There have been many people who have tried to share their message of peace. And, like Jesus and his followers, they sometimes made people mad by constantly talking about peace. Let's talk about a couple of these people.

[Show them the images of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. and see if they can recognize them. Then, share their brief stories.]

Prompt: What would you do if you were trying to be peaceful, but other people were not? What if people got mad at you or made fun of you for trying to be peaceful? How could you respond? [Share]

### ***Creative Response 2: Sit-In***

Prompt: Sit-ins were used in the 1960s when Black Americans were trying to change unfair rules about who could eat in restaurants. There is a fun game we can play to help us remember the sit-in method of non-violent protest.

Have everyone form a close circle. Then, have everyone turn to the right and put a hand on the waist of the person directly in front of them. This will ensure that everyone is fairly close together. Slowly, all at the same time, sit on the knees of the person behind you.

Repeat until the group can sit and stand up with relative ease.

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### ***Lesson 4: Travelers' Prayer – Jewish Siddur***

Prompt: In the Bible story we read, Jesus was telling his followers what to do and how to act as they traveled the region to prepare for his visits. Do you remember what Jesus told them to say when they entered a house? [Hint: it has something to do with our theme (Peace) = Peace to this house.]

Prompt: Jewish people have a prayer book, called a Siddur (SID-er). [Make sure they can say that word.]

Prompt: In this prayer book, there is a prayer for travelers. It is interesting that this prayer also talks a lot about peace. Listen to what it says.

**Read:** Text of the Traveler's Prayer: Prayer for a Safe Journey by Eliezer Wenger

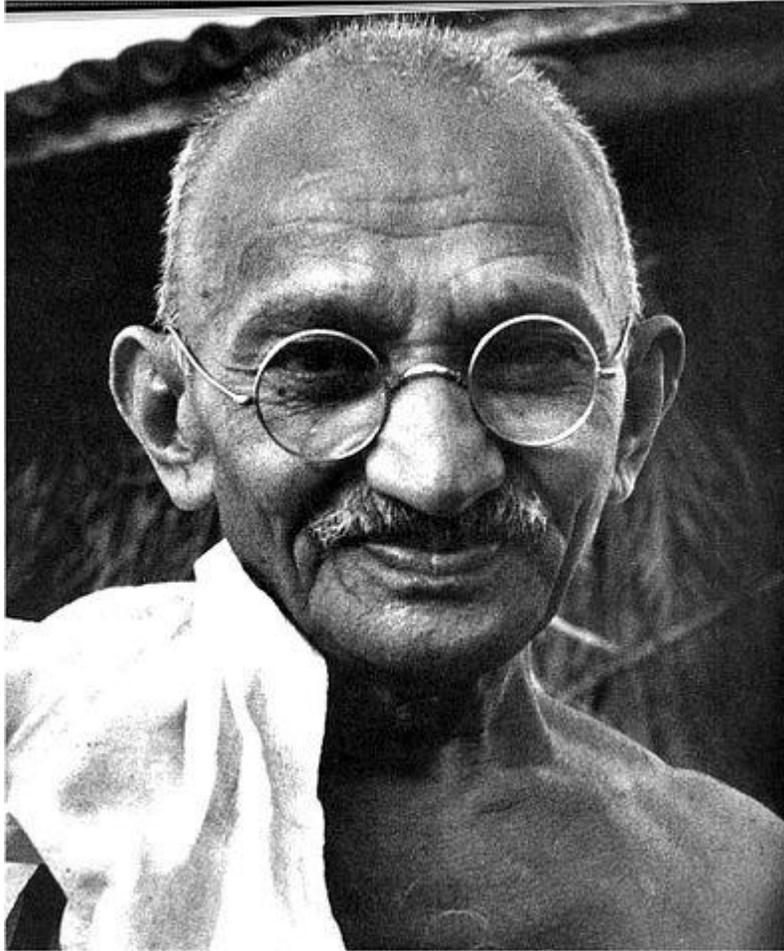
[Note: This passage makes use of the Jewish custom of not writing out the word "God." In traditional Jewish law, the Hebrew name of God cannot be erased or destroyed. While this does not apply to the English "God," many people still follow the custom as a sign of respect.]

May it be Your will, G\_d, our G\_d and the G\_d of our fathers, that You should lead us in peace and direct our steps in peace, and guide us in peace, and support us in peace, and cause us to reach our destination in life, joy, and peace. Save us from every enemy and ambush, from robbers and wild beasts on the trip, and from all kinds of punishments that rage and come to the world. May You confer blessing upon the work of our hands and grant me grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us, and bestow upon us abundant kindness and hearken to the voice of our prayer, for You hear the prayers of all. Blessed are You G\_d, who hearkens to prayer.

Prompt: Why do you think some people would pray before taking a trip? [Share – maybe to keep the safe, maybe to help them have friendly interactions with people along the way, etc.]

**Sources:**

- 1) *Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2007. Print.
- 2) Wenger, Eliezer, Text of the Traveler's Prayer: The Prayer for a Safe Journey. Trans. Web. 2013 <[http://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/379130/jewish/Text-of-the-Travelers-Prayer.htm](http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/379130/jewish/Text-of-the-Travelers-Prayer.htm)>



Mahatma Mohandas Gandhi  
Wikimedia Commons

Mohandas Gandhi lived in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He was born in India and eventually became a lawyer. When he was 24 years old, he moved to South Africa where he worked as a lawyer. In South Africa, he noticed two things. First, the Indian people living in South Africa were discriminated against, partly because they had darker skin than the white people. Indian people were not allowed to ride on the same train cars or stay in the same hotels as people with white skin. Gandhi didn't think that was fair. Gandhi also noticed that Indian people who were Muslims weren't always nice to the Indian people who were Hindus. Gandhi didn't think that was fair either. He thought all Indians should be nice to one another.

Gandhi spent the rest of his life trying to change these injustices. He worked hard to bring all Indian people together – first in South Africa and then in India. He also believed that change could only come through non-violent, peaceful means. Even when he was beaten up or thrown in prison, Gandhi still believed that change could not come through violence. He urged people to stop buying products from people who oppressed them. This is called a boycott, used to make people aware of things that are unfair. Even when people were killed, he reminded everyone to stay calm and not fight back. Not everyone agreed with everything Gandhi said and did, but he stuck with his non-violent message until he was assassinated in 1948. Nowadays, many people recognize how important his message was.



Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Wikimedia Commons

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a young boy in America during the time that Gandhi was urging non-violence in India. After college, King, Jr. went to school to become a minister, becoming pastor of a church when he was only 25 years old. Like Gandhi, he saw things that were very unfair, especially for black Americans. In some states, black Americans could not sit in the same part of the bus as white Americans. They could not drink from the same drinking fountain or go to the same schools. King, Jr. knew about the non-violent methods of Gandhi and used them to help change things. He even visited India to learn more about Gandhi's methods.

Martin Luther King, Jr. urged black Americans in Alabama to stop riding the bus because of unfair rules. This was called a bus boycott. He also encouraged people to use sit-ins. During a sit-in, people sit down and refuse to move. In some states, black Americans could not eat in certain restaurants. Black Americans used sit-ins to help bring attention to that issue and to get the rules changed. People also used non-violent protests. They would walk together in a large group, sometimes carrying signs about things that were unfair. All of these methods were non-violent because, like Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. believed that change would come only through peaceful means. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, and we honor him on Martin Luther King, Jr. day in January. Unfortunately, Martin Luther King, Jr. was also killed by people who did not agree with his ideas

