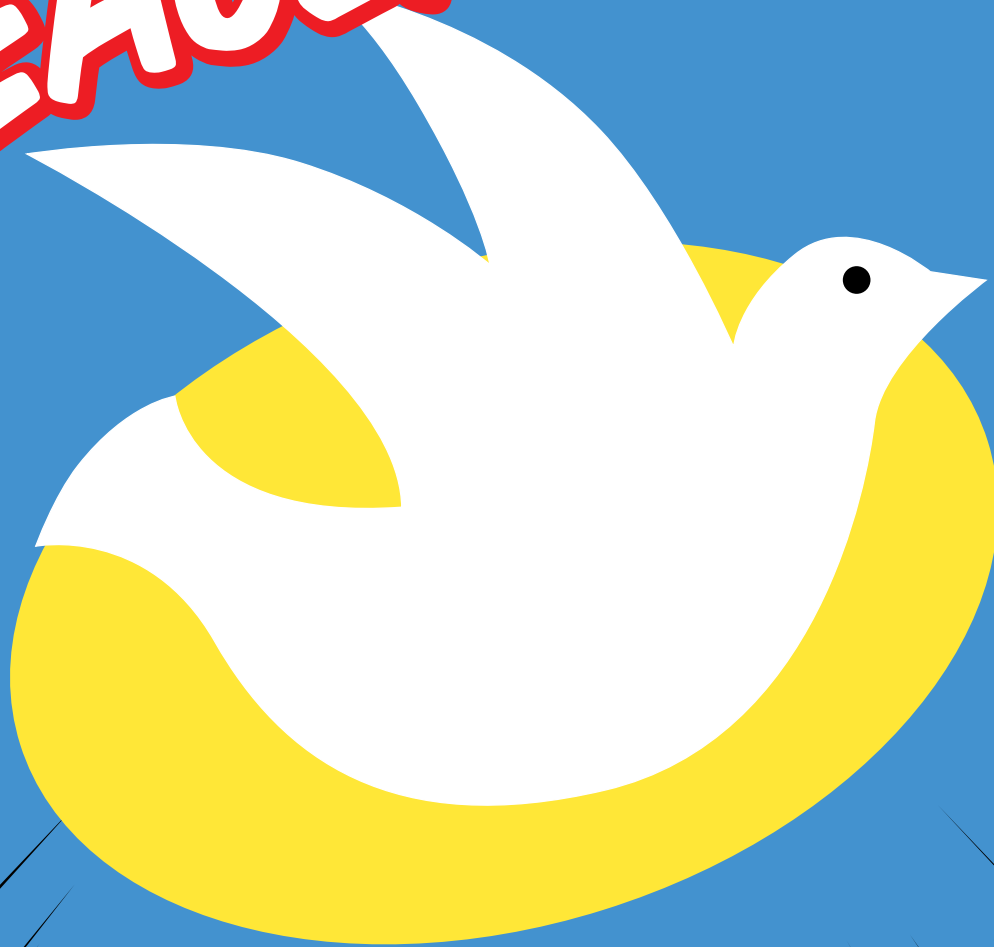




**THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH**  
**PRESENTS**

# **KIDS HELPING KIDS PEACEMAKING!**



**A 12-PART CURRICULUM ENCOURAGING  
CHILDREN TO SERVE GOD & OTHERS!**

# Loving Our Neighbor as Ourselves...

MARK 12:31

### What is Kids Helping Kids?

Conflict is a worldwide problem. It comes in a variety of forms and affects millions of children. This year Kids Helping Kids addresses the need for peace among friends, family, religions, warring factions, hurting mothers, refugees, tribes, persons with disabilities, people in poverty, those who are persecuted, and those faced with disasters. Although the need is great, Kid's Helping Kids provides hope for a way forward.

*Kids Helping Kids* enables us to partner with children on their spiritual journey to:

- fulfill Christ's commandment to love God and our neighbor
- foster a larger kingdom view
- offer an opportunity to serve and obey God
- provide a shared faith experience to build community
- learn from the faith stories of other children around the world, and
- reflect and share their own stories of faith and what it means to be a peacemaker

*Kids Helping Kids* has enabled children in North America to offer hope and opportunity to children in some of the world's most destitute places. The lives of children in these areas are marked by severe poverty and conflict and a lack of peace among children.

### How can children in your church help?

This booklet contains the stories of twelve children, each struggling to find peace. It is our hope that these voices—representing millions of children who face conflict daily—will help shape our children, inspiring them to become Christ's peacemakers.

Examples of ways your gift will make a difference:

- Peace and reconciliation training
- Refugee care
- Disaster response
- Holistic community development

Before taking an offering with the children each week, please read one of the stories, explore where it takes place in the world, engage in the cooperative game, reflect on what it means to be a peacemaker and pray for others. In this way, your children will connect with the bigger picture of God's kingdom and provide a tangible reflection of Christ's light in the world.

*Gifts should be made out to "Kids Helping Kids: Peacemakers" and mailed to The Evangelical Covenant Church, Attn: Covenant World Relief, 8303 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631*

### Questions?

We're here to help! Please email your questions to [cwr@covchurch.org](mailto:cwr@covchurch.org) or [steve.burger@covchurch.org](mailto:steve.burger@covchurch.org).

### Thank you!

Thank you for joining us this year in providing children hope for a brighter future. To order or download more of the Kids Helping Kids resources contained in this packet, please visit [CovChurch.org/KidsHelpingKids](http://CovChurch.org/KidsHelpingKids).

# Creative Ideas for Helping Others

For many years children in North America have thought of some creative ways of raising money and praying so they can help children around the world. Here are some ideas that you may wish to pass along to the children in your ministry. They may choose to do these on their own with their family, or with friends.

## Bible Reading

Children find sponsors to give money for each chapter or book of the Bible read.

## Challenge

Children challenge an adult class or small group(s) to match their offering.

## Neighborhood Fair

Children set up a neighborhood fair with a variety of games, shows, and food.

## Odd Jobs

Children, with the supervision of an adult, work in teams to clean up yards, garages, and basements. They donate the money they collect to the children's service project.

## Reading Marathon

Children find people to sponsor them for each book read.

## Recycling

Children and families gather recyclables and turn them in for money.

## Lemonade and Brownie Stand

Children with supervision of an adult sell lemonade and brownies made with fair-trade chocolate.

## Prayer Ideas

- Spend some time during each ministry gathering to pray for the children who seek peace.
- Encourage a child to pray for children whose stories they read, during the worship service.
- Make prayer journals for children and families to use at home.
- Make a bracelet as a reminder to pray daily.

We hope these ideas will inspire the creativity of the children in your church. We would love to hear about how the children in your church use these or other ideas. Please send your stories to [steve.burger@covchurch.org](mailto:steve.burger@covchurch.org)  
Thank you for partnering with us in ministering to children all over the world and especially for your ministry to the children in your church.

# Paul's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN KENYA—TRIBES

### Materials

Globe, blue painter's tape and construction paper

### Paul's Story

My name is Paul I am ten years old. My father is Ibrahim. He is a Covenant pastor in South Sudan. We are from the Nuer tribe and because there is much fighting, especially between tribes, we left South Sudan and are now living in a refugee camp in Kenya. My father and other leaders of the church are working to bring peace among the tribes. They know this is what Jesus wants.

James Tang, the Covenant's missionary to South Sudan and a member of the Nuer tribe, is here to work for peace. "We are called to be ambassadors for Christ," he said. "If we don't do what the Bible says, then we are not representing Christ."

The South Sudan Refugee Peace, Reconciliation, and Healing Project is bringing together 250 people of different tribes to be trained as peace ambassadors in three camps located in Ethiopia and Kenya. My father is one of them and he brought me along to listen.

Pastor Tang facilitated the first conference meeting, which was held at the Kakuma Camp in Kenya, where I live. He said that Christ is the only one he represents. "I don't represent the rebels, I don't represent the government."

Pastor Tang invited pastors from the Dinka tribe to the first meeting. Seven walked through the Nuer section of the camp to attend. Pastor Tang said this was a very brave act. Once everyone was together, they discussed paths toward peace and worshiped together. They sang songs in each other's languages and washed one another's feet.

After the session, one of the Dinka pastors confessed to Pastor Tang that he had previously seen him only as Nuer but now considered him a brother in Christ. Soon my father will go and preach in a Dinka church. I told my father he was very brave for volunteering. He said, "It is what Jesus wants, it is Jesus's way. We are called to be peacemakers."

## Reflection

Find Kenya on the globe. How would you have felt if you were there?

What is the good news in this story? What do you think and ambassador is? (In this case someone who comes in the name of Jesus or a representative or disciple of Jesus). How is Paul's father a peacemaker and why is he brave?

## Cooperative Game

*The Gauntlet*—Make a gauntlet using two long strips of blue painters tape to mark out a path on the floor just a little wider than a piece of construction paper. Next, space out two to four pieces of construction paper along the path. Each child must pass through the gauntlet (a gauntlet is a dangerous crowd) with their eyes closed to get to the meeting at the camp. They must step over each piece of construction paper and stay within the gauntlet boundaries. The other children will help guide them by voice.

Debrief: How did you feel walking through the gauntlet? How was helping people through the gauntlet like being a peacemaker? How was this like the story we read?

## Response

Let's pray for peace today as Nuer and Dinka tribes come together to worship Jesus. Let's pray for safety of those who have to walk through opposing crowds of people who may not like them because they are from another tribe. Let's pray for James Tang and Paul's father as they try to bring peace. Your giving today will help James Tang and others travel from camp to camp to bring peace in Jesus' name.



# Nana's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN THAILAND—FRIENDS

### Materials

Globe, bean bags

### Nana's Story

Each day, Nana dressed her very best and wore little pink plastic earrings to school. Nana's school sits on the Thai side of the border with Myanmar. There are children from three ethnic groups in Nana's class, Karen, Thai, and Burmese. Nana's family is Karen.

A very pretty girl with straight black hair and gold earrings invited Nana to sit with her at school. Her nickname was Smile and she was Thai. At recess Smile grabbed Nana's hand and together they ran to the playground. "Let's get all the kids to play hide and seek!" Nana suggested.

But Smile's face turned sour. "Not those skinny kids, they are Burmese." Smile pointed to some of the kids and turned her nose up. Nana was confused, but she followed Smile because she wanted to be friends.

Day after day, Nana learned that Smile would play only with Thai children. The few "skinny Burmese kids" played by themselves.

Nana felt sad and a little ashamed. She knew that God didn't like it when people were not kind. That night, when her mom was saying bedtime prayers, Nana started to cry. She told her mom, "Smile asked me to take a toy from the skinny girl's backpack today. I didn't

want to, but she made me. Then Smile put it in her own backpack!" Nana felt so sorry and sad, but she was also afraid of getting in trouble.

Her mother kissed her head. "I'm glad you told me, Nana," her mom said. "But why did you do something that you didn't want to do?"

"Because if I didn't she wouldn't play with me anymore! Smile always wants to boss me." Nana's big eyes searched her mother's.

"Nana," her mother said. "Smile is not the boss of you. Do you know who is the boss of you? God." Her mother smiled and hugged her. "God is the boss of you, and God will always help you to do the right thing, you just have to listen."

Nana was still nervous the next day when she pulled her hand from Smile's and went to play with the other kids. Smile was angry with her. But Nana prayed that God would help show Smile the right way. Nana remembered that God also loved Smile and wanted her to learn how to be kind.

For about a week Nana continued to play with the other kids, and she tried her best not to get upset when Smile made faces at her. Some of the other Thai kids joined the Burmese kids' game, and soon it was Smile who had the smaller circle of friends. Then one day, Smile joined the game. The Burmese kids looked doubtful at first, but they welcomed Smile anyway. Now Nana, Smile and all the children play together.

## Reflection

Find Thailand on the globe. How is life at school for Nana the same or different from yours? Why wasn't there peace? How was Nana a peacemaker?

## Cooperative Game

*Group Juggle*—Depending on the size of the group, the group works together to keep anywhere from 1 to 4 bean bags moving by throwing the bean bags to each other.

Debrief: How did you have to work together? What did you have to be careful to do to juggle the bean bag(s)? How did you encourage one another? How can we be peacemakers like Nana?

## Response

Let's pray for Nana and for the children at the school in Thailand and for peace and kindness in our own schools. This week, is there one person in your school to whom you can be extra kind?





# Serophine's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN CAMEROON—FAMILY

### Materials

Globe

### Serophine's Story

My name is Serophine and I am nine years old. I live in Cameroon and I'm the firstborn child from a family of five children. My mother is a housewife and my father is a taxi driver. When I was seven I was sick and had a wound on my three left fingers. My parents did not help me. They did not love me. I was as good as dead to them. They wanted to get rid of me because I could no longer help with the house chores. I groaned in pain, and each day my fingers were getting worse. I thought God would help me, but no one was listening.

But our neighbor was listening to God. One morning, this Christian woman just came and packed my few dresses and said we are going to the hospital. Our family was not Christian. I couldn't understand why she would help me, but at the same time I was so happy that someone would care for me even though we were different.

When I got to the hospital, they discovered I had Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy. In the hospital, there is a leprosy camp for patients who are on medication and have no place to go because their families have rejected them. During that time God gave me another father who was the head of the department of Hansen's disease. He took me to the leprosy camp. There, I was to live with a woman and her two daughters. I worried that she and her daughters would reject me. But when I arrived she and her two little daughters, Faith and Hanna, happily welcomed me with a broad smile. I was told my new mother was treated for Hansen's disease fifteen years ago.

Now I have a loving mother and two sisters in my new home and a father who checks on me almost every day. All of them love Jesus and I know Jesus loves me and saved me. I feel so grateful that I am not alone and I found another home.



## Reflection

Find Cameroon on the globe. How was Serophine treated by her family? Why wasn't there peace in her family? Who brought peace to Serophine?

## Cooperative Game

*Hand Tap*—Sometimes when people have Hansen's disease or leprosy others are afraid to be around them or touch them. Today we are going to play a game where we gently touch each other's hands, its called Hand Tap. Everyone place your hands palm down in front of you on the table (or on the floor while kneeling). Have each person raise their right hand and place it over the left hand of the person to their right so that each person's hands are separated. The goal of this game is to gently tap the hands in the order they are on the table. (You can make this more challenging by giving everyone one chance to double tap their neighbors hand. Whenever there is a double tap the order reverses.)

Debrief: How did you have to work together? How did you encourage one another? How were you peacemakers? How can we be peacemakers when

someone is rejected? How can we be peacemakers when someone is having trouble at home? How can we be peacemakers by using kind touches to our friends and family?

## Response

Let's pray for Serophine and for the children like her who have Hansen's disease.



# Mary's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN KENYA—RELIGIONS

### Materials

Globe, construction paper, scissors, stapler or glue sticks, markers.

### Mary's Story

My name is Mary. I live in the Waata Muslim community in Kenya. We are separated and despised by other communities. My community is poor and very small in number. We have always been hunters and gatherers but now we cannot hunt because the government has banned hunting. If we are lucky we can eat once a day. I am fortunate because I have one dress. But my younger sister has no clothes and none of us has shoes. Sometimes when my parents are out in the forest looking for water or wild fruits they are attacked by wild animals. If they are hurt there are no doctors or clinics. There are also no schools. The government will not provide these things for us. If we want to go to school we have to walk more than three miles to the Pokomo community but have to be on the lookout for water buffaloes and hippopotamuses that will attack us if they see us.

One day a Christian man came to our community. His name is John. He is a Covenant pastor and said God told him to come. Christians despise us but Pastor John came to bring hope and peace. Our community has never known a Christian like Pastor John. He spends time with us. He values us and is working to make life better for us. Pastor John shows us what Jesus is like. I, and my family are Muslim but we have experienced Jesus's love.

There is still a lot of fear and the Muslims from Waata and the Christians from Pokomo do not trust each other. A woman in our community was disowned by her family when she married a Christian man from Pokomo. His family said marrying a woman from Waata would bring bad luck to their family.

It is not easy for people to change their ways. Those of us from Waata who go to school in Pokoma are looked down on by the other children. So we seek God's guidance to overcome the challenges. I'm thankful we have Pastor John and the Covenant Church to help us. Perhaps one day there will be peace and love shared between the people of Waata and Pokomo, between Muslims and Christians.

## Reflection

Find Kenya on the globe. Why did some Christians from the nearby village of Pokomo not like Mary and her family? How do you think Jesus would want us to respond to someone different than us? How was Pastor John a peacemaker?

## Cooperative Game

*I Like Differences Game*—Each child and teacher makes a unique crown out of construction paper. Explain that each child will be giving their crown to another child. Children then stand in a circle. One at a time each child will name one trait of another child that they admire which is different from them. Such as a physical trait, long hair, smile, singing, running, brown eyes etc., or personality trait like kind, good friend, encouraging. They will put their crown on that person's head. Children take turns with the teacher going last until all children are crowned.

Debrief: Why do you think God made us all different? How does a peacemaker view differences? How were you peacemakers? How can we celebrate our differences?

## Response

Our giving will help Mary and the people of Waata and Pokomo communities to work toward peace and acceptance through the ministry of Pastor John. Hopefully one day they will live peaceably. Let's pray for Mary and for Pastor John and the people of Kenya.



# Nyayual's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN SOUTH SUDAN—WAR

### Materials

Globe, pieces of construction paper

### Nyayual's Story

My name is Nyayual and I am eleven years old. I lived in the refugee camp in Malakal, South Sudan. I am a member of Nuer Tribe and a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan. When war broke out two years ago we were forced to leave our home and we came to this camp along with 48,000 other South Sudanese. The camp was set up by the United Nations and Covenant World Relief helps provide money for food, clothing, and medical supplies.

At the beginning of this year, soldiers came into the camp and started shooting people. The entire Nuer section of the camp was burnt down to ashes. Many people died including five people from our church. Two of the women were my friends, Nyaweaka and Nyayual. Nyayual has the same name as me.

When the fighting started we fled to escape the bullets and the fire. There were thousands of us who had to run from the camp. I was separated from my family. This was true for many of us. I walked along with some other children, younger than I, who did not know where their parents were either.

We were all afraid. We did not know if the soldiers would come after us, or what we would eat or drink or where we would go, or if we would ever see our parents again. We just walked along with a crowd of other people.

Because we had to flee so quickly, we had nothing except the clothes we were wearing. This war makes life very hard. While we walked I prayed to God that my parents were okay. I cried for those who died. I was told by some of the others we were headed to another refugee camp in Ethiopia where the people from the Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia were there to help us. But I was also told it was many days away. I prayed I would find my parents and that we would survive and that God would bring peace.

## Reflection

Find South Sudan on the globe. What is life like for Nyayual? How is it different from yours? Where do people go to find peace in the middle of a war? How does Covenant World Relief help to provide a peaceful place?

## Cooperative Game

*Finding the Way to Peace*—Pair up. One person goes to one side of the room as the “Guide” and the other goes to the opposite side of the room and is the “Traveler.” The “Travelers” must shut their eyes. Place pieces of construction paper on the floor between the two groups. These are danger zones. The object of the game is for the “Guide” to call out instruction to his/her teammate (the Traveler) and guide them to the safety of the camp without stepping on a danger zone. Partners can switch roles and try it a second time.

Debrief: How did it feel being the Traveler? How did it feel being the Guide? What is it like trying to find peace in the midst of danger? How were you peacemakers?

## Response

Our giving and prayers will help children like Nyayual find peace in the midst of war. Covenant World Relief is involved in dangerous places in the world to try and help people find peace. They work with organizations like the United Nations to build camps and provide food and supplies for those fleeing war. Let’s pray for Nyayual and the other children as well as for the families of those whose loved ones died.



# Kisemvo's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN DR CONGO—DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

### Materials

Globe

### Kisemvo's Story

My name is Kisemvo and I live in DR Congo. I can't walk. My mom cares for me but my father thinks I'm worthless because I can't walk. He never talks to me except to say something mean. He will not let me go to school. There is no peace in our house because my father is always angry at me and thinks I can do nothing.

One day my father had to take a moto-taxi to the other end of town. He hailed the moto and got on, without agreeing to a price beforehand. When they got to the destination he stopped the driver, and gave him 200 francs (about 20 cents). The driver said, "No, it's 500 francs!" and they began to fight.

A child in a wheelchair came by and heard them fighting, and tried to get them to stop. He asked them in French why they were fighting. The moto driver told the child that my father only wanted to pay 200 francs but the price was 500. The child reached into his pocket and pulled out a 500 franc note and gave it to the driver. Then he told my father to go on his way.

This profoundly affected my father—here was a child with the same disability as me who spoke French and had a 500 franc bill in his pocket! My father came home and told us that he had changed his mind about me. He decided a person with a disability could do some things better than a person without a disability. He said he had been wrong to say bad things to me and not send me to school. The next day my father enrolled me in school. It is a good school where I am accepted. Peace has come to our home because the school accepts me and because of the kindness of the boy in the wheelchair who helped my father.

## Reflection

Find DR Congo on the globe. What are you concerned about after listening to this story? How do you think God feels about people who are disabled? Why wasn't there peace in Kisemvo's house? Who is the peacemaker in this story? What was special about the school Kisemvo goes to?

## Cooperative Game

*Silent Line Up*—Explain that we are all going to line up in a particular order but no one can talk. Everyone must communicate with their hands or by using motions. First, line up by height. Next line up by number in family, then shoe size, and finally by birthday with one end of the line January 1 and the other December 31.

Debrief: What was easy or hard about this game? Did the fact that you couldn't talk keep you from playing? Why do you think some people are mean to someone with a disability? How can we be peacemakers?

## Response

Let's pray for Kisemvo today and thank God his father now accepts him and he can go to school. Let's pray for others who are made fun of because they have a disability. Let's thank God for the example and strength of people who do the things we do with a disability.





# Emmnauel's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN SOUTH AFRICA—POVERTY

### Materials

Globe

### Emmanuel's Story

I am Emmanuel and I am eight years old. I live in Willowfontain, South Africa. Many years ago people with white skin forced those who had black skin to live in this place. This is a poor place. For many years there were no schools here and the fathers all had to leave to work in the fields or factories. The fathers, including my father, still have to leave today to work in the same places their fathers worked. They do not make a lot of money and they are not home with their families. I see my father only for a few days each year.

My mom was very sick and died when I was two. There was no one to care for me except my grandmother. She was also sick and she had trouble walking. When I was little sometimes I would hear noises outside. I would run out to see what it was. My grandmother would try to stop me but I went anyway.

There were young men yelling at each other and fighting because they could not get a job. They were angry. One man got pushed and fell on top of me. It hurt and I started to cry. He just laughed at me. I was cut and bruised. I ran back in the house to grandmother but she was laying down. She was too weak to help me. So I laid down next to her and cried.

Then some women started a preschool for children 0-5 years old. It is called a crèche. I was one of the first children to go to the crèche. The women are very kind and gave me food to eat and cared for me during the day. I learned songs and words and how to be nice to others.

At night I was with my grandmother but during the day I was always at the crèche. It was much safer then to be out on the streets. It is a peaceful place.

Now that I am eight I go to school. The things I learned at the crèche have helped me in school. I am thankful for the women at the crèche who took care of me when I was young to provide a peaceful place in a very poor and hurting place.

## Reflection

Find South Africa on the globe. What is life like in Willowfontain? How is your life the same or different from Emmanuel? Why do you think some women started the crèche? Do you have any questions about his story? Who are the peacemakers in this story?

## Cooperative Game

*The Humming Game*—Take turns being the volunteer who steps briefly out of ear shot. The rest of the group thinks of either something for the person to find or something for the person to do, such as pick up a book and take it somewhere, give a marker to someone, put something in the trash, etc. Tell the volunteer when s/he comes in if it's a find or do. Explain that the rest of the group will hum a song like ABCs or Twinkle Twinkle, and when the person is getting closer to finding or doing the right thing they will hum louder, and if they are far away they will hum softer.

Debrief: What was it like to be the volunteer? What was it like to be the hummer?

What was easy or hard about this game? If you were a peacemaker and someone needed help, what else could you do to help them? How are the women at the crèche peacemakers? How did they help Emmanuel when he was young? How did that help him when he got older?

## Response

Let's pray for Emmanuel today and thank God the women at the creche who give little children a place to be and food to eat. Let's pray that we can be accepting of people who look different than us and thank God we are all made different. Let's pray that fathers could get work closer to home and thank God that we can give to help the creche so other children will have someone to care for them.



# Quri's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN ECUADOR—PERSECUTION

### Materials

Globe

### Quri's Story

My name is Quri. I am seven years old and I am Kichwa and live in Lote Tres, Ecuador. My people are indigenous to Ecuador. Long ago my tribe was enslaved and later given very poor land to live on at about 12,000 feet of elevation in the mountains near Cayambe, Ecuador. They called it Lote Tres (Lot 3).

Not much grows in Lote Tres. So we do not have much food. We grow onions but do not get much money for them. We are poor because of the land we were forced to live on and we are looked down on by others. Many families are separated because fathers and some teens have to leave to find work. They send money back but cannot be with their families.

It is even harder for those of us who are Christian. I am part of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Ecuador. Because we are Christian and Kichwa we are often seen as the lowest of the lowly. We are made fun of and we have even had our water and power turned off because we are Christian.

Pastor Segundo Farinango is the pastor of the Peace of God Covenant Church in Lote Tres, Ecuador. The Covenant Church of Ecuador and Covenant World Relief are working to bring peace to our part of the world. They are developing a dairy association in which milk is collected and stored in a cooling tank where it can be sold at a higher price. Eventually, the association will produce cheese and yogurt in addition to milk. This will give us more money so we can survive.

Both members of the church and those outside of the church form the association. My father is now part of the association and he doesn't have to leave to make money. I used to be sad because my father would leave for long periods of time. I love having my father near us every day. When others make fun of me, my father wraps his arms around me and tells me he loves me and Jesus loves me.

Because the milk association is helping many members of the community that aren't from the church we are hoping the project will improve our relationships with neighbors and help bring people to Christ. Maybe people will stop making fun of us and will see that we are kind and loving like Jesus. Even though others may be unkind, we are reaching out with peace. We are working together to make life better for all Kichwa. I am grateful for Covenant World Relief, I am grateful for Pastor Segundo and I am grateful for Jesus who shows us the way to peace.

## Reflection

Find Ecuador on the globe. What is life like in Lote Tres? What are some things that are not fair in this story? Do you have any questions about his story?

Even through the Kichwa tribe of Christians have been treated badly, how are they being peacemakers and trying to help others?

## Cooperative Game

**Mirrors**—Pair up. Explain that each pair will play two rounds of “Mirrors.” In each round one person will be the leaders and the other the follower. The leader will have 60 seconds, during which s/he silently and slowly moves while his/her partner tries to mimic the same movements as if looking in a mirror. Leaders can make faces, slowly move their head, body, arms or legs. After 60 seconds players will switch roles. If there is time you can mix into new pairs.

**Debrief:** What was easy or hard about this game? As Christian’s we are suppose to mirror Jesus? What do you think that looks like? How were the people from Quri’s tribe trying to mimic Jesus? What does Quri hope for?

## Response

Let’s pray for Quri and the Kichwa people today. Let’s thank God that we can be a part of Covenant World Relief who provides the milk coolers to help the Kichwa community and enables them to reach out with Jesus’s love as they share their good fortune with others who have been making fun of them. Let’s remember that Quri and the Kichwa tribe remind us to be peacemakers. Let’s act out some ways we can be peacemakers.



# Levis's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN KENYA—MOTHERS

### Materials

Globe, pencils for every child with erasers on one end, three paper or plastic disposable cup, for every three or four people.

### Levis's Story

My name is Levis Barasa, I am ten years old. I have a younger brother and four younger sisters. I never knew my father and I was separated from my mother Sarah when I was 4 years old. My mother was very poor and could not afford to take care of us. This is true for many mothers in my community. It is hard to work and care for children. The jobs available for mothers pay less than for men, making it even more difficult. So my mother left my younger brother Andrew, my sister Yasmin, and I to stay with our grandmother in another town.

Life was hard. Grandmother was getting old. Sometimes she took care of us and sometimes we took care of her. When our mother came to visit us at Christmas time, my brother and I found it very difficult to call her mama so we called her by her name, Sarah. This made my mother sad. It was hard for her not to be around us and take care of us. We were sad too.

A year later, our grandmother sent me to live with my mother's older sister in Kapenguria, while my brother Andrew and sister Yasmin stayed with her. She could not feed all of us anymore. She was getting very old and could not do as much work as she used to.

I was happy to live with my auntie because I got to be close to my cousins. My two cousins attended school in Kapenguria and I wished I could too but my auntie could not afford to put me into school because she did not have enough money to cover the fees. Whenever my cousins would go to school, I was left alone at home to wash dishes, clean the house, and go to the river to fetch water while my auntie went to work tilling people's farms, harvesting their crops, and washing their clothes so that she could get money to buy food for us.

Through the help of Covenant World Relief, I am now in school and my mother was able to come to work in the village where her sister lived. I now live with my mother.

Since September of 2013 we have never been separated, now I call my mother, mama because I feel very close to her, I pray that one day my mother will have enough income to bring my brother Andrew and my sister Yasmin to live with us, then maybe they too can have a chance to build their relationship with our mother and call her mama too.

## Reflection

Find Kenya on the globe. Do you think it's fair that women get paid less than men? How does this effect children? Has Levis had a peaceful life? What has been especially hard for Levis? Who are the people who have tried to be peacemakers in Levis life?

## Cooperative Game

*Cup and Pencil Game*—Give each person a pencil. Divide up into teams of three or four. Have each team put the three cups on the table in front of them. The object is to stack all three cups—two on the bottom, one on the top—and then move the top cup to the other side of the room. Players cannot use their hands. Together they must use the eraser end of the pencils to apply pressure to the cup from three or four sides so it can be lifted into place.

Debrief: How can working as a team be like being a peacemaker? What was easy or hard about this game? Why couldn't we do this by ourselves with one pencil? Who was the team that was in Levis life that helped to bring peace to his life? Some things are not possible to do on our own. Sometimes we need help just like Levis and his mom needed help.

## Response

What are some ways we can be peacemakers at school this week? Let's pray that God will help us to be peacemakers and let's pray for Levis and his family. Let's thank God that we can be a part of Covenant World Relief who helps provide jobs for mothers so that their children can go to school.



# Sami's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN SYRIA—REFUGEES

### Materials

Globe

### Sami's Story

I am Sami and I am eleven years old and have a four-year-old sister and six-year-old brother. There is war in my country of Syria. Bombs took the lives of some of my friends and family. My parents Omar and Amina knew if we stayed we might be next. So we left our home, our neighborhood, in the hope of finding safety in Europe. We are among almost 5 million people who have had to flee the war.

We travelled by car to Lebanon, sold it for a small sum of money and then took a flight to Istanbul, Turkey. That's when our journey became really difficult. In order to get to the coast, we had to trek through the mountains of Turkey. It was very hard scrambling and hiking through the mountains. My sister, brother, and I complained—the mountains seemed to go on forever. Day after day we stumbled through the mountains. Our legs hurt, our hands were cut and scrapped, and our feet were sore. We were a long way from home and far from the end of our travels.

Finally we made it to the Turkish coast. My father talked with some smugglers about taking our family by boat to the shores of Greece. He paid them money and we got into a boat with many other families. It is a dangerous crossing. Sometimes the boats sink because there are too many people in them.

My brother, sister, and I were afraid, water sometimes splashed into the boat. But my parents held on tight to us and we were fortunate to reach the shores of Greece. Our legs were shaky when we stepped out of the boat onto shore. But we were thankful to be alive and away from the war.

We had been outside for a long time trekking through the mountains and across the water to Greece. We were cut, bruised, tired, hungry, and dehydrated. We were in need of food, medical care and shelter. Thanks to Covenant World Relief we were able to receive these things. Our cuts and bruises are healing, and we have even been able to play some in the refugee camp.

We are not yet at the end of our journey. We must move on to another country to find a new home. We are unsure where the journey will end. Pray that we will one day have a new home and live in peace.



## Reflection

Find Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, and Greece on the globe. Consider the route that was taken by Sami's family. Wars create refugees. A refugee is one who is forced to flee to a safer place. Sami was living a life much like yours. He had a nice home, went to school, and had great friends. What would it have been like to travel with Sami? What would it be like to leave your home, school, and friends and go to a country that speaks a language you don't understand? How peaceful is the life Sami is living right now?

## Cooperative Game

*The Change Game*—One volunteer will stand up in front of the group and slowly turn around twice while the group looks carefully at the volunteers appearance. Then the volunteer leaves the room and quickly changes three things about their appearance. Move a watch, tuck in a shirt, untie a shoe, roll up a sleeve, mess up hair, etc.

The volunteer returns to the group and the group tries to find the changes. If someone sees something they should raise their hand and when they are called on can share what they think has changed. After a minute of two, change volunteers even if not all the changes were found. You can do this in small groups if you have a lot of children.

Debrief: What are some things that have changed in your life? How is finding things that change easier then living into change? What were some of the changes Sami had to live into? Who became a peacemaker in Sami's life?

## Response

How might we be peacemakers in someones life this week? Let's pray that God will help us to be peacemakers and let's pray for Sami and his family. Let's thank God that we can be a part of Covenant World Relief who helps refugees who have travelled a long way on a dangerous trip. Let's pray that Sami and his family will finally find a peaceful new home.



# Mahant's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN NEPAL—DISASTERS

### Materials

Globe, enough blocks for each child in attendance

### Mahant's Story

I am Mahant. I am eight years old. My mom and I were on the way to the market to purchase some grain to make bread when the ground started to shake. Suddenly, the buildings and houses around us began to collapse. A cloud of dust and smoke filled the air. I could not see anything. I shouted for my mom but choked on the dust. I could feel my mom's arms around me, holding me as the ground continued to shake. People around us were screaming.

When the dust cleared. I could not believe my eyes. The entire village was destroyed. There were just piles of rubble where houses and buildings once stood. My mom took my hand and we ran back to where our house was. But it was destroyed. The roof lay on top of the ground with the collapsed walls underneath.

My mom started screaming and crying out for my father who was in the house. But there was no answer. We tried to move the roof but it was too heavy. Others nearby were doing the same thing. But it was hopeless. The bricks were too heavy to move.

The next day some men and soldiers came and began looking for people buried in the rubble. Eventually they came to our house. After removing the roof and some of the walls they found my father. He was dead. This made my mom and I very sad.

In the days that followed I discovered that many of my friends and relatives also died in the earthquake. They were dead and I was still here but I no longer had a home. My mother took me to a brick making site. My mother and I sat under a tarp and made bricks. The brick site is now my home.

I miss my father a lot. I miss my friends too. I am sad and worry that an earthquake will come again. I am thankful for the Hindustani Covenant Church who gave us blankets, mosquito nets, and mats. It is the beginning of finding peace after the disaster.



## Reflection

Find Nepal on the globe. Sometimes peace is suddenly taken from us. This is true when disasters strike. Put yourself in Mahant's place. What would you have seen, smelled, heard, tasted, felt? Why couldn't Mahant and his mother help his father? Sometime we cannot bring peace by ourselves. Sometimes we need help. Who helped Mahant and his mother? How did Mahant's mother and the Hindustani Covenant Church try to begin to bring peace to Mahant?

## Cooperative Game

**Rescue Relay**—This is a game that demonstrates how people working together can be peacemakers. Spread out in a line(s) across the room with each person close enough to the next to receive a block and pass a block. Put a pile of blocks equal to the number of persons in the line, at the beginning of the line (or the beginning of several lines if you have a lot of children). This is not a race against each other but against time. You only have so much time to save people from under the rubble (time a practice round and then add a few seconds for the time they need to beat).

The person(s) standing next to the pile of blocks picks up a block and passes it to the next person in line then runs to the back of the line, while the rest of the line is passing the block from person to person until it reaches the end of the line. By that time, the person who started the passing should be there to receive it and drop in on the ground at the end of the line. This action is repeated until the first person is back in the front of the line.

**Debrief:** How did you feel as the clock began to tick down and you were running out of time? Even if you ran out of time and were not able to rescue someone, were you still working as peacemakers? Sometimes peacemakers cannot save everyone. But it's important that we still try. The Hindustani Covenant Church cannot bring Mahant's father back but they can help Mahant and his mother. One day perhaps Mahant will be a peacemaker for someone else who is hurting.

## Response

Who have been peacemakers in your life? How might we be peacemakers in someone's life this week? Let's pray that God will help us to be peacemakers and let's pray for Mahant and his mother. Let's thank God that we can be a part of Covenant World Relief and the Hindustani Covenant Church who help people like Mahant when there is a disaster. Let's remember that even though peacemakers cannot save everyone, Jesus calls us to keep on trying and to bring peace to as many people as we can.

# Nyla's Story

## PEACEMAKING IN ETHIOPIA—WAR

### Materials

Globe, Cut out a number of simple paper silhouettes of children.

### Nyla's Story

It was a long journey from our camp in South Sudan to Gambella, Ethiopia. When I arrived, people from the Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia gave me food and a place to stay. The next day we began the search for my parents. A woman named Dorcas helped me search for three days but we could not find them. Dorcas told me not to give up. More people kept coming into the camp each day and each day we would stand near the gate and watch for them. Finally, on the fifth day I saw them. I saw my parents and called out to them. They ran to me. We cried tears of joy when we found each other. My parents couldn't stop hugging me.

We were given food and a place to live with the help of Covenant World Relief and the Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia. I thanked Dorcas for her help. Dorcas smiled then went to help other children find their parents.

A week later our camp in Gambella was attacked by another South Sudanese tribe who came across the border into our camp. They took the cattle which provided food for the camp and they began shooting at us. They killed many people. Forty-one people from the Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia died. The same people who were trying to help us. Some of those who died were children. I cried for the children and I cried when I heard that Dorcas had also died. Ethiopian soldiers finally chased the attackers away. But I have not found the two children that walked with me to the camp here in Gambella. I don't know if they are alive. These are sad days.

Why is there so much anger? Why do people take from each other instead of sharing? Why do people kill others because they are different? Jesus tells us to love each other. I pray for peace. I pray that God will not let my heart be filled with hate.

We are grateful for our sisters and brothers in the United States who give money so we can survive in this camp. It is not easy, but for now you have helped provide a place for us. For the moment there is peace.

## Reflection

Find Ethiopia on the globe. How would you respond if you were in Nyla's situation? How would you describe Nyla? What is she like? What do you think about the woman who helped Nyla? How can being a peacemaker be difficult?

## Cooperative Game

*Lost*—Before class, hide the paper silhouettes of children throughout the room.

Tell the children they need to find the lost children (paper silhouettes). When they find one, they need to call someone else over to bring the "lost child" to the camp. The camp can be a table or a place within your circle etc. Remind children it's not a competition to see who can find the most children it's about all working together to find them.

Debrief: What was it like looking for the lost children? How did you feel when you found one? How did you feel if you were not able to find a child? What was it like to bring a child back to the camp? Whether you found a child or not, how was everyone equally important and how was everyone a peacemaker?

## Response

Our giving and prayers will help children like Nyla find their parents, receive food and clothing, a place to stay and medical help. When you give and pray you become a part of Covenant World Relief. You may not be in the refugee camps but you are a peacemaker, providing a way for children and families to find peace in the middle of war. Let's pray for Nyla and the other children as well as for the families of those whose loved ones died.



