

# PEACE

## OVERCOMING EVIL

### GOALS

1. To discover what mankind lost by not being obedient to God in the beginning
2. To study and understand mankind's progress in resolving conflict and achieving peace
3. To review mankind's steps toward peace by love and law: unlimited retaliation, limited retaliation and limited love, unlimited love, world peace by law

### POSSIBLE CLASS OUTLINE

- I. Introduction - Man breaks God's law
  - A. Activity 1 - "Peace and Law"
  - B. Activity 2 - How do you respond naturally?
- II. Lesson
  - A. Use Bible questions in studying the progress of law from unlimited retaliation to unlimited love
  - B. Activity 3 - Daniel Wheeler's story
  - C. Activity 4 - A Gift Returns
  - D. Activity 5 - Tearing down the walls to Shalom
- III. Closing
  - E. Extended Activity 6 - "None shall make them afraid"
  - F. Extended Activity 7 - Peace tree

### SCRIPTURE

#### Exodus 21:23-25

<sup>23</sup> If any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, <sup>24</sup> eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup> burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

#### Matthew 22:34-40

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Additional Scripture: Ephesians 2: 14-22



## PREPARATION

### Vocabulary

**Forbidden** - not allow, prohibit

**Security** - freedom from danger

**Retaliation** - pay back a wrong

**Era** - period of history

**Inevitable** - unavoidable

**Prosecuted** - put on trial in a law court

**Universally** - everywhere

**Progression** - move forward

**Oppression** - harsh rule

**Injustice** - unfair

**Development assistance** - for the welfare of people

**Super powers** - countries with greatest wealth and strength

**Conventional** - everyday use

## MATERIALS

### Activity 1 - "Peace and Law"

piano hymnbook

copies of song "Peace and Law" (keep for use later in the year)

### Activity 2 – How do you naturally respond?

Teacher student

### Activity 3 - Daniel Wheeler's story

Daniel Wheeler story - teacher's materials

### Activity 4 - A gift returns

story about Herbert Hoover

information on UNICEF

information on mission fields

### Activity 5 - Tearing down the walls to Shalom

game "Tearing down the walls to Shalom"

### Extended Activity 6 - "None shall make them Afraid"

picture "None shall make them Afraid"

### Extended Activity 7 - Peace tree

large roll of newsprint or bulletin board paper

scissors

glue

resources

## **RESOURCES**

### **Bibliography**

Lives that Speak, Living Light Series, Friends United Press.

My Book of Friends, Friends Faith and Life.

Peacemaking: Consider the Alternatives, United Church Press.

Family Adventures toward Shalom, Ecumenical Task Force on Children, Education for World Peace, 1984.

Creative Conflict Solving for Kids, Schmidt and Friedman, Peace Education Foundation, 1985.

### **Children's Books**

The Magic Bear, Sarah and Becky Fanshen. Need Seed Press, 1973.

Tiger Eyes, Judy Blume, Bradbury Press, 1981.

The Tomato Patch, William Wondriska, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964.

My Shalom, My Peace, Jacob Zim.

## **LESSON**

### **BIBLE STUDY**

The Garden of Eden was a beautiful place. Adam and Eve lived there in comfort. The rule was plain: Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve took of the forbidden fruit and thereby lost the comfort and security they enjoyed in the Garden of Eden. Life on the outside of the Garden was not so easy. The law of the land (or lack of it) was that of unlimited retaliation: might makes right. If someone uprooted your rose bush, you uprooted his whole garden. If someone killed your dog, you killed his goat. He killed your goat, so you killed his ox - and so on, until there would be little left to kill or destroy. God was not happy with the situation.

Mankind experienced many changes after being evicted from the Garden, and eventually the laws of limited retaliation and limited love were introduced. The law of limited retaliation required a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and so on. Retaliation must be limited to exact amount of injury. For example, if someone uprooted one of your rose bushes, then you were permitted by law to uproot one of his. You were, however, no longer allowed to uproot the whole garden, even if you were able.

The law of limited love said to love thy neighbor and hate thy enemy. This set two standards of dealing with people. A fellow Jew could be forgiven for uprooting the rosebush, i.e. "Love thy neighbor." On the other hand, the Moabites, Ammonites, and the like would be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, that being the "hate thy enemy" thing to do. This attitude was at least a beginning of learning how to love, forgive, and live peacefully together. Most countries today have constructed a system of peace and order within themselves. But between countries, a war system of unlimited retaliation is often in effect.

Jesus came with the law of unlimited love: love thy neighbor and also love thy enemies. This law does not sound like the most practical one to follow. It is like saying that if someone uproots your rosebush, you will not only give him the rose bush but also help to plant it in his yard. Jesus did not talk of how practical this was, or how much we could lose. He talked of doing this that we may become children of our God. It is a way of learning to love as God loves. God does not limit loving to certain groups. God loves universally regardless of whether God is loved in return.

The development of law in the Bible can be seen to follow a progression from unlimited retaliation to unlimited love. Each step leads toward perfection or maturity in loving. The main purpose of the law was to get people to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" and "love thy neighbor as thyself." We must work to see how we can make an orderly community into an orderly world.

Shalom is a Hebrew word that means wholeness and harmony. It is translated as "peace" in our Bible. God's shalom, if we accept it, means a healing of the separation from God, from other people, and from that aspect of ourselves that was created in God's image. In joyous response to God's world, we go into the world to become peacemakers. We work for peace in our families, in our communities, and in all of God's world, because wholeness is needed.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Why do you think Eve ate from the tree of knowledge? Can you remember a time when you broke a rule, then later wished that you hadn't? Tell about it.
2. Have you ever been new and alone in a new school? How did you feel? Are you friends only with the people whom you know like you? Have you ever befriended someone new who acts scared, is new, lonely, or unhappy?
3. Why do you think some children think only of themselves? How thoughtful are you of others? Tell about a time you did something nice for someone which made you feel good inside.

### **PRAYER**

Lord, help us to learn where peace really begins. Teach us to live in your love so that we may return your good for evil.      Amen

## ACTIVITIES

### **Activity 1 - "Peace and Law"**

*Learn the song "Peace and Law"*

*(to the tune "In my Heart There Rings a Melody"). You will find the words for this song in the teacher's materials. Teach verses 1 and 2 this lesson.*

### **Activity 2 - How do you naturally respond?**

*Students choose a partner and stand facing each other. Everyone raise your right hand. Place your right hand against your partner's right hand and push while the teacher counts to ten. Drop hands and sit down.*

*Discuss in simple words what happened. How did you feel? Did you push back? What does this teach you about force?*

*Stand again facing your partner.*

*With arms at sides, slowly raise and open them wide to your partner. Walk toward your partner with arms out stretched until you touch. Sit Down.*

*Discuss what happens when you greet people with open arms. What does this teach us about force and love?*

### **Activity 3 - Daniel Wheeler's story**

*Dramatize the story of Daniel Wheeler. Decide who should play each character. Let characters chosen ad lib the actions and words they think were used. Be sure to put feeling into what you say.*

*Sock puppets or masks may be used if children are shy. Masks are made from stiff paper (ex. Paper plates) and glued to a stick by which to hold them. Cut out the mouth so voices can be heard.*

*A table turned on its side and draped with a sheet makes a great stage for student to hide behind.*

### **Activity 4 - A gift returns**

*Read the story "The Gift Returns."*

*Discuss the story with the class.*

1. *Why did President Hoover help the Belgium children?*
2. *How did they show their appreciation?*
3. *Where today can you see the Belgium flour sacks?*
4. *Do we often get back more than we give?*

*Today, President Hoover's idea has become UNICEF. Ask the children what they know about UNICEF. Encourage them to take on a project to help other children. Some possibilities might be trick or treating for UNICEF, selling UNICEF cards, sponsoring a mission child, sponsoring a child in your own community that needs help.*

**Activity 5 - Tearing down the walls to reach Shalom**

*Play the game "Tearing down the walls to reach Shalom". You will find instructions in the teacher's materials. This game will help the student look at particular situations in their life in which they choose between returning good or evil for evil.*

**EXTENDED ACTIVITIES****Activity 6 - Peace tree**

*Cut from paper a tree larger than and surrounding your classroom door. On this tree children can place self portraits, ideas for personal, family, or world peace, or words for peace in many languages: PAZ, HEIWA, PAIX, MIR, PACE, PAKOJ, SHALOM, AMANI, AS-SALAAM, FRIENDEN, HO-P'ING, IRINI*

**Activity 7 - None shall make them afraid**

*Study the picture of Quakers worshiping fearlessly and unarmed as Indians armed enter the meetinghouse. Have each student write a story about the picture. Each student should read their story. Look at what is alike and different in the stories. Choose a story to make into a play. Present your play to other classes or to the entire meeting.*

# FAMILY OF FRIENDS

## PEACE

### OVERCOMING EVIL

"Peace and Law,"

Elton M. Roth

Phyllis Barker Noah

#### Verse 1

*There was a garden man called Eden.  
There grew everything man needs.  
Then Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit  
They were the first ones to sin.*

#### Verse 2

*Let's spread the Love that Jesus taught us  
'Cause He is the Prince of Peace.  
Let's share that love with all God's people  
All the people in God's world,*

#### Verse 3

*Peace will be sought by every nation.  
It will come by Love and Law:  
We must help them understand  
Let's avoid a Nuclear Winter night*

#### Chorus:

*Peace begins with you and me  
Let's be a loving neighbor,  
Speak a loving word.  
Peace begins with you and me  
Let's spread peace over all the world.*

## LESSON

Daniel Wheeler's life reads like a story book. He was orphaned at 12, was converted to Quakerism as a young man, traveled to Russia as a missionary and agriculturalist, and traveled to Tahiti as a missionary. His early years were ruled by violence while his adult life was spent in missions of love. Daniel Wheeler believed that God works in people's lives and he opened himself to allow God to work in him and through his life.

### WHEELER - THE BOY

Daniel Wheeler was born in 1771 in England. His parents died when he was 12 leaving him to help his older brother in the family wine business. A few years later he left to join the British navy. Daniel learned to be a fighter on land and sea. He had a life changing experience when he was sent to the West Indies in a convoy of 200 vessels. Since his boat was sadly overcrowded, he decided to transfer to a much less comfortable barge alongside his ship. The second night at sea a great storm arose and his original ship sank, killing all on board. Wheeler believed that God had spared him so that he could make something of his life. The first thing he did was to resign from the army and adopt a non-violent life style.

### WHEELER - THE YOUNG MAN

Wheeler went to live with his sister who had married a Friend and become convinced herself. He began to feel leanings to the quiet, Quaker way of worship and lifestyle. He began to dress in Quaker garb and attend meeting. This was a tough decision for him because he knew that his comrades would laugh at him. He soon joined the Quaker meeting and was later recognized as a Friends minister.

### WHEELER - MISSIONARY AND MAN OF LOVE

Daniel Wheeler married a Quaker woman and set up a thriving seed business which supported his wife and children comfortably. He believed that God had some great purpose for his life. When a call came for an agriculturalist to serve in Saint Petersburg, he went without hesitation. When Wheeler arrived in Russia with his family, he was immediately introduced to Prince Galiiyzin, son of the Emperor

Alexander. He talked with the Prince about his plans to improve agriculture in Russia and then he told him about the power of Christ. They were close friends as long as Wheeler was in Russia.

When the emperor was removed from the throne, Wheeler returned to England to seek new direction from the English Friends who were helping to support his missions. His wife and daughter died in Russia before he could send for them. Wheeler was filled with grief at his loss, but he still felt that God had plans to use him. He felt a call to minister to the natives of the South Sea Islands. Friends in England bought a small vessel for him called the "Henry Freeling." He sailed for Tahiti in 1833. The trip was hazardous because of rough seas, but Wheeler again saw the work of God's hand. During a terrible storm at sea, a collection of about 200 small whales swam alongside his ship -to keep the waves from crashing over the deck. Wheeler was even more convinced that God planned to use him in Tahiti.

Daniel Wheeler accomplished a great deal of good by simply allowing God to use him in His service. He did not ignore the call of God in his life, but instead he worked to understand what God required of him.

### PRAYER

Read the following passage to the students from the 1888-87 Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice:

*Let none of the rush of engagements or the hurry of business crowd their opportunities for private retirement and waiting upon God. The more our engagements multiply, the greater is the call to watch unto prayer..... Life without prayer is practically life without God.*

After reading this passage and discussing its meaning, ask the students to sit quietly and pray after the manner of Friends.

## **FAMILY OF FRIENDS**

**PEACE**

**OVERCOMING EVIL**

**A GIFT RETURNS**

From 1914-1917, there was a war in Europe known as World War 1. As with all war many people were hurt. Many children in Belgium and France were starving because the land in the country was so badly damaged that no food would grow. The President of the United States was Herbert Hoover. He felt a concern to help these children. He set up a group of people to help these children. It was called the Commission for Relief in Belgium. Kitchens were set up to feed the children biscuits and hot soup.

Flour was shipped from the United States and Canada in flour sacks of all kinds and colors. This gave the people in Belgium and France an idea. They wanted to thank Herbert Hoover in some way. He had made it possible for them to continue living. They took the flour sacks and decorated them with multi colored thread. Then they shaped them into clothes and pocketbooks. Anything you can make from cloth they made from the sacks. They were then sent to Herbert Hoover. Today you find some of them in the Herbert Hoover Museum in West Branch, Iowa.

This child feeding program was the beginning of the organization we now know as UNICEF. This is an organization now sponsored by the United Nations. Young people still play a large part in this organization through designing and selling UNICEF cards and trick-or-treating for UNICEF.

# **FAMILY OF FRIENDS**

## **PEACE**

### **OVERCOMING EVIL**

#### **TEARING DOWN THE WALLS TO SHALOM**

The concept of Shalom in the early writings of the Hebrews, such as the books of the Old Testament, is the peace of God that surrounds us throughout our life. Shalom overpowers all the influences of the world that take from our following God's will in our lives. It brings with it the security and love that surrounds us in joy of the Lord.

There are some things in our world that try to keep us from this sense of God's peace. This builds a wall between us and the shalom God offers us. There are several ways to break down these walls.

- \* *Living your life as God leads you*
- \* *Meeting regularly with others for giving and receiving support*
- \* *Remembering to ask yourself what Jesus would do in this situation as you go through your daily life*
- \* *Reading the Bible, God's written word*

This game emphasizes the use of scripture to guide as we seek peace.

To make this game you will need six pieces of construction paper. This is your wall. On one side, write one letter for the word shalom - S-H-A-L-O-M. On the other side, list the following scripture references:

- #1 *Job 22:21-22*
- #2 *Psalms 85:8*  
*John 14:27*
- #3 *Psalms 34:12-14*
- #4 *Romans 5:1-2*  
*I Corinthians 14:33*
- #5 *Ephesians 2:14-19*
- #6 *Colossians 3:12-15*

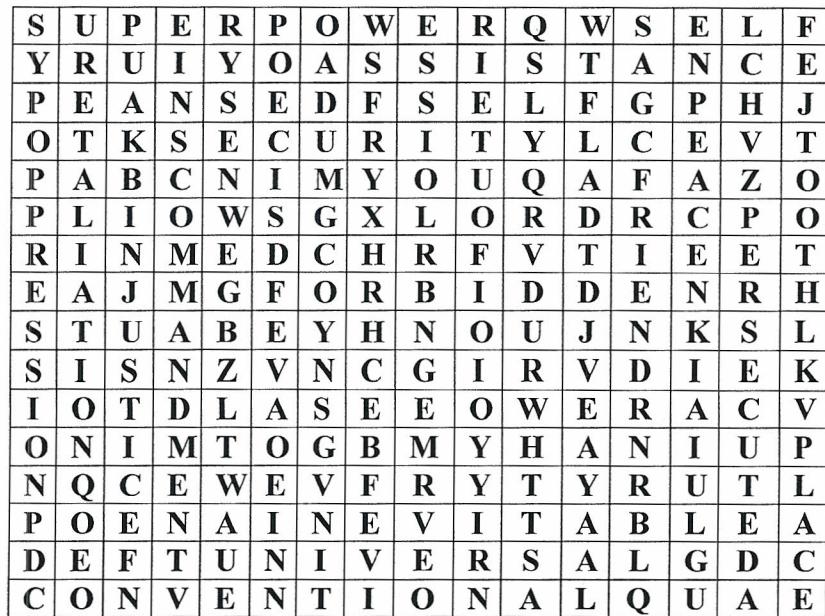
Do not write the scripture on the card. Have your students look it up in their Bibles and write it on the card. As they complete the scripture, they can turn over the card to show their letter. When all the letters show, the game is over. Everyone is a winner in shalom, the peace of God.

# PEACE

## OVERCOMING EVIL

### GOOD OVER EVIL WORD FIND

See how many of the words you can find in the letter square. All the words have to do with the power of good over evil. Circle the words as you find them.



#### LIST:

FORBIDDEN	FRIEND	OPPRESSION
SECURITY	ENEMY	INJUSTICE
EYE	CONVENTIONAL	INEVITABLE
TOOTH	PLACE	PERSECUTED
LOVE	WAR	LORD
UNIVERSAL	PEACE	ERA
COMMANDMENT	NEIGHBOR	SELF
RETALIATION	ASSISTANCE	SUPER POWER

See if you can find some extra words.