

PEACE POINTS STARTERS

Lutheran Peace Fellowship

Peace in our world • Peace in our nation • Peace in our neighborhoods • Peace in our homes • Peace in our hearts

Peace and Justice Ideas to Get You Started

Here are some guidelines and ideas to help you create a peace-focused session for your youth.

1. Brainstorm a list of possible peace or justice topics. They could be global, national, community, or personal issues. For example: poverty, the environment, discrimination, or eating disorders. Pick a topic that will resonate with your youth group, or that your youth are facing.
2. Using the starters below as inspiration, find a creative and interactive way to explore your justice topic, and bolster it with background information, biblical connections, and reflection. A good format for a peace session is:
 - A. Introduction: an overview of the topic or a small discussion, icebreaker, etc.
 - B. Main Activity: a hands-on learning activity about the topic.
 - C. Follow-up: small or large group discussions to reflect on the main activity, what was learned, how it relates with Christian teachings, how students can apply it to daily life.

“Peace Points” is a resource series from Lutheran Peace Fellowship that offers practical ideas and tips to encourage youth in their peacemaking and justice seeking.

Music

Listen to what the musicians are saying about peace and justice and discuss their message. Here are some ideas:

1. Silent Night—Simon and Garfunkle
2. Behind the Wall—Tracy Chapman
3. Imagine—John Lennon
4. Take a look around—Limp Bizkit (from MI-2 soundtrack)
5. What It's Like—Everlast
6. Big Yellow Taxi—Joni Mitchell (covered by Counting Crows)
7. Blowin' in the Wind—Peter, Paul, and Mary
8. Sunday Bloody Sunday—U2
9. Subdivision—Ani DiFranco
10. What's Goin' On—Marvin Gaye, or newer versions by various artists.
11. The Rising—Bruce Springstein.

Arts



- * Express your ideas of peace by painting a mural, making collages, or constructing sculptures.
- * Do chalk drawings on public streets.
- * Learn about the story of Sadako and make paper cranes for peace. See www.sadako.com.
- * Create an interactive exhibit on a justice issue and display it in your church's fellowship hall.
- * Go see a theater production or art show that deals with justice. Or create your own!

Service Projects

- A. Serve a meal at a soup kitchen.
- B. Help with maintenance in a local park.
- C. Raise money for a domestic abuse shelter.
- D. Sponsor a letter-writing campaign to elected officials regarding an important issue.
- E. Lead a forum or workshop about a concern.

Lutheran Peace Fellowship (LPF) is a community of Lutherans across the U.S. and around the globe responding to the gospel call to be peacemakers and justice seekers. Founded in 1941, LPF offers a wide range of expertise, resources, and encouragement.

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Film

Film can be used to illuminate the nature of violence in our world, to critique our media, or to explore positive values.

A Force More Powerful documents six successful nonviolent social movements in recent history in 1/2 hour segments.

True Colors is a report that reveals the real effects of racism for people of color, as it follows two friends as they move to a new area.

Dead Man Walking is an illuminating story of a nun's work with a killer on death row.

Romero is a true story of the fight for human rights, centering on the courageous archbishop of the war-torn El Salvador.

Dave is a wise comedy about an average guy, wanting to do good, who is hired to impersonate the president.

Born on the Fourth of July is a story about a soldier who came home from Vietnam paralyzed and becomes an anti-war protester.

Games

Adapt competitive or violent games such as Risk
Hoopla – from the makers of Cranium
Do a rope course or another teamwork activity
Disarm – available from LPF
Get to Know You Bingo – to learn about each other

Quotes

Quotes can be used to spark discussion, as the basis of a debate, or as a jumping off point to explore the group's understanding of what peace means. How else can quotes be used?

“Peace is more than just an absence of war.” **Ronald Reagan**

“If we are honest, we find the temptation to vengeance in our own hearts. Yet we know that the first real victim of violence is the perpetrator. What Gandhi said is true: 'An eye for an eye results only in two blind persons.'”
Mary Evelyn Jegan

“We have learned that we cannot live alone, at peace; our own well-being is dependent on the well-being of other nations.” **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

“You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake.”
Jeannette Rankin

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” **Constitution of UNESCO, 1945**

“All those who take up the sword will die by the sword.” **Jesus**

Worship

Much worship material has a peace focus. Use these songs, prayers, scriptures, or find your own to build a worship activity.

Prayers:

The Prayer of St. Francis.

The Celebration of Life Prayer Sixth Assembly, World Council of Churches

Songs:

Even the Stones Will Cry R. Makeever

Lord of All Creation LBW

Where Charity and Love Prevail LBW

Scriptures:

Micah 6:8, Matthew 5:9, Psalms 10:17-18, Romans 12:2, Exodus 1:15-21, Isaiah 65: 18-25, Luke 3:11, II Kings 6:20-23, I Peter 3:8-18, Micah 3:1-5, Acts 4:34, Galatians 3:28, Amos 5:21-24, Matthew 5:35-46, II Corinthians 5:18-19.

Other resources:

Bread of Tomorrow Janet Morley

Heart of Prayer Anthony Gittins CSSp

Cry Justice! John de Gruchy

Lutheran Book of Worship

Peace Worship Resources Lutheran Peace Fellowship

See LPF's website for Peace Points resources on Just War, Hosting a Hunger Awareness Meal, and What Is Christian Peacemaking?

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