

# Swords into Plowshares

PreK-  
**K**

**PEACE • ADVENT 1 • YEAR A**

**ISAIAH 2:1-5**



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## What's happening in this story?

The mountain of the Lord's house is a recurring image in Isaiah. There's a mountain rising above other surrounding hills and mountains. The Lord and the Lord's people are on it. All peoples are being gathered to this mountain. Teachings will flow from the Lord, through the people, to the nations. Israel will be a light to the nations, especially through the teachings of peace, *shalom* (a sense of God's wholeness, well-being, and peace), reconciliation between warring nations, and a shift away from the technologies of warfare and toward working the land. It's a gorgeous, inviting vision.

## What does this story mean for kids?

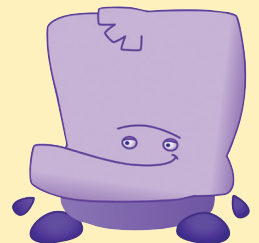
For both younger and older kids, the content of this story can be quite abstract, but the actual concepts are not out of their reach. Understanding that God wants us to come to God's house (a place to be with God and gather with others) and to learn about God's teachings is accessible and important. However, while the concept of peace may be obvious to adults and adolescents, an explanation of swords, plowshares, spears, and pruning hooks will be needed for younger kids.

## What is the Lectionary Connection?

Being instructed in the ways of God teaches people to move from harming one another toward peace. Biblically, peace always means more than the absence of conflict; it is the presence of being whole, or at ease with who and what you are.

## AGE LEVEL TIP

Advent is more than a countdown to Christmas, but kids (and many adults) have a hard time understanding this. Help kids enter into the season of Advent by emphasizing that it is a time of waiting and anticipation for Jesus' birth.



### GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Crayons
- Glue sticks
- Construction paper (precut 2-in. flower petals, 6 per kid; 3-in. tulip shapes, 3 per kid)

### LESSON SUPPLIES

- Gift bag (blue)
- Index card
- Glow sticks (25), flashlights or battery-operated tea lights

**WHIRL SUPPLIES**

**• WHIRL STORY BIBLES**

**• DVD**

**• FLOOR MAT**

**• LEAFLETS**

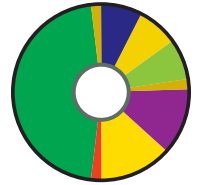
## Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Advent is a time of watching, waiting, and preparing for Jesus to come. Invite kids to watch the door and wait for others. As they wait, have them prepare a place for each new kid to sit. **Is it easy or hard to wait for others to arrive?**

## Invite kids to stand around the Floor Mat.

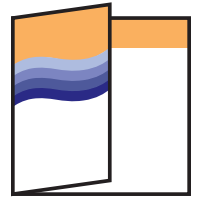
Point out the season (Advent), color (blue), and icon (Advent wreath). **Today is a special day. It's the first day of Advent, when we prepare for Jesus' birth. Jesus is sometimes called the Prince of Peace, and our Bible story today is about peace. Peace means no more fighting. It also means everyone feeling safe, happy, and comfortable with each other.** Invite kids to pass the peace to each other by shaking hands and saying, **"God's peace be with you."**

Prepare an index card with the message "The Lord is building a big house!" on the front and "Let's go to the house of the Lord!" on the back. Put the index card in the gift bag. **During Advent we hear stories about messages God sent to people. Let's see what today's message is.** Remove the card from the gift bag and read both sides. Repeat the message on the front, with kids responding with the message on the back.



## Pass out leaflets and crayons.

Our Bible story today is about a prophet named Isaiah. Prophets are people who bring messages from God to God's people. Isaiah's message was about a big house built by God where everyone would live in peace forever. The word **PEACE** is spelled P-E-A-C-E. Can you find those letters in the picture on your leaflet? They are in the shape of a house. Invite kids to color the word "PEACE" using a blue crayon for the season of Advent. Collect their leaflets until Respond.



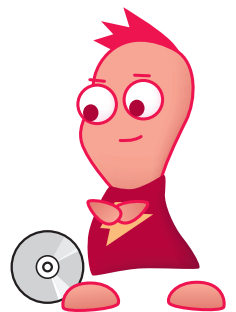
## Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

In today's video, the kids get into a big argument. Watch for how the argument affects each of the kids differently.

View Episode 1, "Crayon Catastrophe," on the Whirl Year A Winter PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- Why doesn't Otto want to share the crayons?
- When is it hard for you to share?
- How does Clara feel about the arguing?
- What happens to the crayons because the kids are fighting?
- How could things have turned out differently if everyone had not been fighting?



## Pass out Whirl Story Bibles to kids.

**Let's find our story for today!** Help kids find "The Lord's Welcoming House" on page 122. Start by pointing out the graphic that shows the Advent wreath in the blue circle for the Advent season. Before you read, invite kids to look for swords and spears being hammered into another kind of tool.



Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

## Ask these questions after you read the story:

- What did Isaiah say God was building?
- How big will God's house be? How many people will live there?
- How will people feel in God's future? Will they be happy, sad, or something else?
- What will happen to swords and spears in God's house?
- I wonder where God's house is.

## Play together!

Have kids create a path with the glow sticks. (Alternatively, use flashlights or battery-operated tea lights.) Dim the lights in the room if kids are comfortable with that. **Isaiah invited God's people to walk in the light of the Lord. Let's follow the path to God's house.** Invite kids to walk along the path and imagine they are going to God's house. **The Bible story says God's house is bigger than the tallest mountain.** Have kids pretend to climb as they walk along the path. **The people clapped and danced with joy when they heard about God's house.** Invite kids to skip, dance, and clap along the path. **Let's pretend to plant a garden at God's house. God's house will be wonderful!**

### BIBLE BIT

- Plowshares were blades pulled by animals to turn over soil for planting. Transforming weapons into tools for creation and growth is part of God's redemptive work in the world.

### WATCH IT AGAIN

- If you watch the video again, invite kids to put themselves in the story. **How would you help the kids find a peaceful way to share the crayons?**

### OUR CHURCH

- How does your church spread God's peace? Invite a member to share about a ministry your church supports to help people in need, such as refugees, the homeless, or immigrants.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Isaiah 2:1-5 • Psalm 122 • Romans 13:11-14 • Matthew 24:36-44

# RESPOND 10

## Pass out leaflets, paper flower petals and tulips, crayons, and glue sticks.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. **What are the spears and the sword on your leaflets usually used for?**
2. **The Bible story said that in God's house, swords and spears will be turned into tools for gardening. What tools are used for gardening?**
3. **Let's make the swords and spears on your leaflets into flowers.** Invite kids to glue flower petals and tulip shapes over the tips of the blades of the sword and spears on their leaflets.
4. Have kids complete their garden by drawing grass, leaves, or other growing things on their leaflets.
5. **Have you ever planted a garden? What is good about a garden?**
6. Invite kids to share their gardens with the rest of the class.
7. **Let's thank God for giving us peace.** Say together, **"Thank you, God, for your peace."**

# LAUNCH 10

## Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Living in God's house of peace is something we can all look forward to. Our Bible story said that in God's house *"all people will be happy."* God loves us all very much. What about God's house makes you feel happy? Take time to hear kids' responses.

## Pass out leaflet panels and crayons.

Help kids read the leaflet panel together. **Let's draw pictures to fill in the spaces of missing words of Isaiah's message.** Have kids draw pictures of a house, a happy face, and a symbol for light, such as the sun or a light bulb.

## Send kids out.

**Who remembers the message from earlier today? Today's message says, "The Lord is building a big house!"** Invite kids to respond, **"Let's go to the house of the Lord!"**

Pray together: **Dear God, we want to walk in your light. Give us your peace and help us bring your peace to others as we live, learn, and play. Amen.**

Thank kids for sharing their crayons with each other. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.