

Racial and National Peace

Barriers to peace

World Wars

God is our Redeemer, Life and Peace

Spiritual Awareness: God is a reconciler

Redemption is available to all people. In Romans 1:16, Paul emphasizes that salvation is available to everyone who believes, first for the Jew and then for the Gentile. Galatians 3:28 tells us that there is neither Jew nor Greek. We can all be sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

The answer to true peace is accepting the salvation offered to us by God. Ephesians 2:14 tells us that Jesus is our peace. He has broken down the wall. That wall is the barrier of sin, which has separated man from God. Only by asking Jesus to take our sin, can the wall be broken.

Our response to 'God is our Redeemer'

Because God is my redeemer I will...

Ask Jesus to forgive me for my sin

Invite Him to live in my life

Make Jesus Lord of my life

Live with Him forever

Thank Him for what He did on the cross

Thank Him that I am His child

Tell others that they can have eternal life

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies 4, (Peace): Jesus broke down the barrier of sin

Themes for Christian Studies 7, (Peace): God wants us to be peace-makers

Biblical references

Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23 - When people sin they are separated from God. Sin forms a barrier between people and God.

Colossians 1:20 - Christ's death on the cross broke the barrier.

Ephesians 2:14 - He is our peace. He has broken down the wall.

Romans 5:1; 1 John 1:9 - If we ask Jesus to forgive us, and we have faith in God, we can have peace with God.

Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peace-makers

Matthew 5:21-23 - Make peace with your brother.

Mark 9:50; 1 Thessalonians 5:13 - Peace with one another.

Psalms 2; Ephesians 2:22; Romans 10:12-21 - Peace for nations.

Romans 12:17 - Don't repay evil for evil.

Romans 12:18-21 - Don't take revenge.

Matthew 5:38-42 - Don't fight back.

Matthew 5:38-42 - Love your enemies.

Luke 10:25-37 - The Good Samaritan

Matthew 26:50-56; Luke 23:34 - Jesus set the example

Key Questions

How did the sin of Adam and Eve sin affect their friendship with God?

What effect does *our* sin have upon friendship with God?

If we see sin as a barrier between ourselves and God, how can that barrier be broken?

What was the purpose of Jesus' death on the cross?

Who can receive God's redemption?

What are some of the invisible barriers people can have between one another, causing them to hate each other?

How can these kinds of barriers be broken?

Outcomes

Students will

- identify some of the barriers causing racial and national conflict
- understand that redemption through Jesus Christ brings peace with God
- become peace-makers in the home and the community
- study biographies of peace-makers

Activities

- Define the word 'barrier'.
- List visible barriers, such as walls, moats, fences and border crossings.
- List invisible barriers such as hatred, greed, jealousy, racism.
- List nations currently involved in conflict, and suggest reasons for this. Suggest possible ways of resolving the conflict.
- Briefly research World Wars 1 & 2 - nations involved; types of weapons.
- Compare reasons for Old Testament battles with reasons for wars today.
- Write an essay on God's opinion of war.
- Hold a debate for and against self-defense in the case of war.
- List racial groups that have been, or are being persecuted. Discuss consequences and ways in which Christians can help.
- Make a study of the slave trade and Christians who helped to have it abolished, e.g. John Newton.
- Study biographies of peace makers such as Mary Slessor and Martin Luther King, (*see Themes for Christian Studies 7, Peace*).

Assessment

What have I learned from studying barriers to peace...

- about God?
- about doing what God wants me to do?
- about the Bible?

Additional Beacon Media resources:

World War 1 & 2 stories – See Secondary History