

Chapter 20 **Peacemaker**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. *John 14:27*

To the Parents:

In chapter 20, your child learned the following:

- Jesus preached a message of justice and peace.
- The followers of Jesus are called to work for justice and peace.
- God’s kingdom is a kingdom of justice and peace.

Jesus lived a life of peace, touching those he loved as well as those who were unloved by society. He desired peace for lepers, sinners, and outcasts of every sort, and offered to them his healing and consoling touch. His peace extended to all he met, revealing by his love for them the peace that God intends for all of creation. Followers of Jesus are called to do the same.

Achieving peace is closely aligned with working for justice, as Pope Paul VI has reminded us. Followers of Jesus participate in the creation of a just society by considering the needs of the poor, the oppressed, and those who have no voice to speak out for themselves. In families, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities of faith, Christians echo the command of Jesus to “love one another as I have loved you” by seeking justice in order to bring about peace. They become the peace of Christ in the world.

With Your Child:

1. Talk about how peacemaking can begin in the home. Recall arguments and fights among family members and then discuss how the fights may have been resolved peacefully.
2. Take inventory of interests in your life that do not promote peace—music, TV programs, video games—and reflect on their effects on your responsibility as a Christian peacemaker.
3. Read about John Leary on the Review and Explore page.