

## FAMILY PAGE: BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

### FAMILY QUESTION: WHERE DOES OUR HOME NEED MORE PEACE?

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." We are called to be peacemakers, but don't be fooled by fake peace! In Ancient Rome, people had a peace called the "Pax Romana," and it was enforced with harsh oppression. That is fake peace. Sometimes families do not feel peaceful. That is very normal. Even the most peaceful families sometimes have moments that feel frustrating or uneasy. Make a list of moments in a typical day. Read the list out loud and put your thumbs up if you have a feeling of peace during that moment. Put your thumb down if you think your family could use some more peace in that moment. What peacemaking can be done in those tougher moments?

### BRIEF REFLECTION

A huge crowd of people followed Jesus. He saw their hurts and pains and cared for them in many ways. He led them to a mountain and told them about God's kingdom. You can think of a "kingdom" as the way the world works or is set up. In God's kingdom, there is abundance: more than enough honor, food, money, love, power, and resources for everyone to thrive.

Jesus says, "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*" We often use the word peace to mean being free from disruption. The kind of peace Jesus talks about is more than calm, quiet, or a lack of conflict. True peace is what Jesus and his followers called "shalom," which means wholeness and wellness. All of your needs—physical, emotional, spiritual, etc.—are met and lovingly cared for. Have you ever felt that kind of peace?

Many people listening to Jesus did not experience shalom. Many people today don't either. In Jesus' time, Rome conquered many different peoples' lands and forced Roman laws and customs onto them. They called it "Pax Romana," meaning "Peace within Rome." This did not feel like peace to the people whose lands and lives they took over! Rome said it was peace because they squelched anyone with different views or beliefs. It may have been quiet and conflict-free, but it didn't feel peaceful. It was a fake kind of peace. There's a long history across the world of governments taking over people and land, saying they'll bring peace, but imposing laws that hurt and oppress. To create peace for everyone, we must use our voices and what power we have to bring justice, not just say we want peace. People have been chanting "No Justice, No Peace" during protests since at least the 1970s. It means there won't be wholeness or peace until there is justice among us.

God desires this peace among all people: young and old, disabled and non-disabled, among all genders, between nations, and among all expressions of faith. Remember, God's peace is not fake peace. It is a deep wholeness that is sometimes disruptive. This is why Jesus blessed the peacemakers.

### PRAYER

*God of peace, We want to be peacemakers and justice workers in your name. We want to follow your lead in creating a world where each one of us experiences true wholeness. Please show us what our next step is today in creating the peace our world needs. Amen.*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does "peace" mean to you?

What does it look like to be a peacemaker here and now?

Why do you think there can't be peace until there is justice?

How can you be a peacemaker in your own community?

*In the coloring page's blank space, write or draw what this beatitude looks like or means to you, or write or draw a modern-day version of the beatitude.*

BLESSSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS  
FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED  
CHILDREN OF GOD

# Young People need some Peace



Young people send messages to each other on their phones.

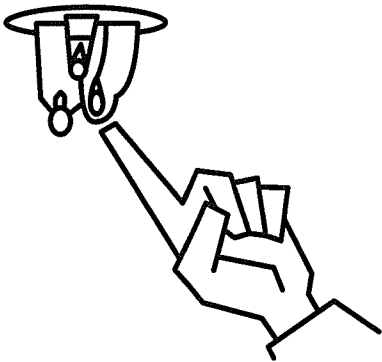


These messages are rude and mean.

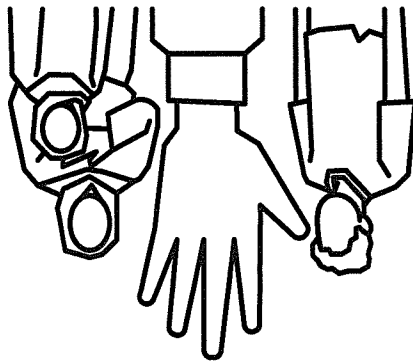


Some people who get these messages feel alone and hurt.

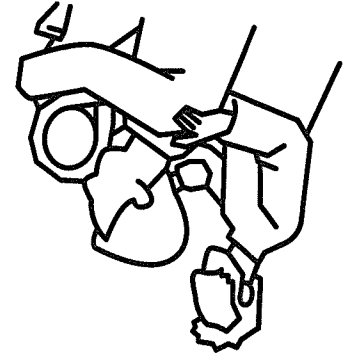
They are treated with cruelty and prejudice.



They are not always welcomed.

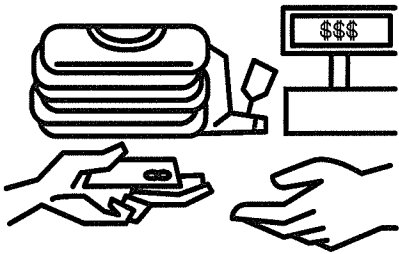


Immigrants and refugees flee to other countries for safety and shelter.

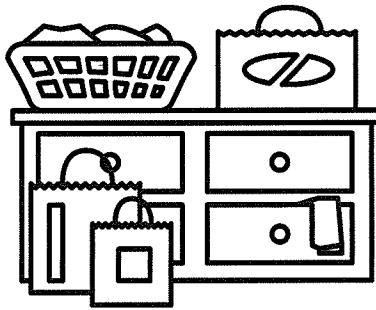


# Immigrants NEED SOME PEACE

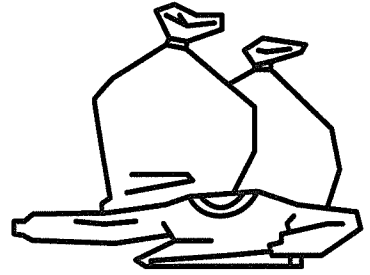
# the Planet NEEDS SOME PEACE



People buy clothes.

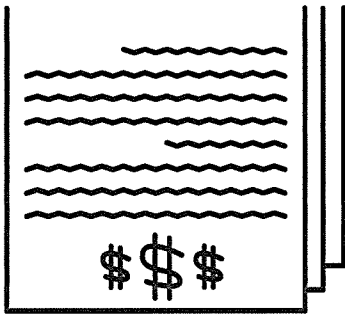


They buy more clothes they do not need.

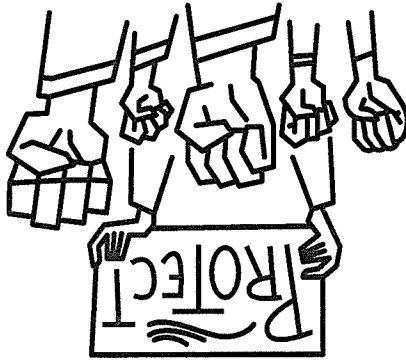


They throw away clothes that are still whole.

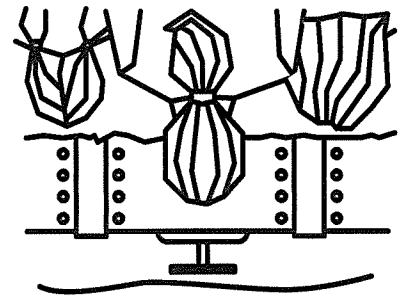
Big business and government still take it over and harm the land.



They fight to protect their land.



Native Americans have had their land stolen and misused.



# NATIVE AMERICANS NEED SOME PEACE