

I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go. (Genesis 28:15)

Peaceable Kingdom – Isaiah 11:6-9

Prepare to Wonder

In this Bible story we have an account of God's vision for the whole world. Last week we heard about Jacob's dream and God's promise of blessing to Jacob and his descendants. Today, we hear of an even bigger dream: God's dream of peace and well-being for all of creation. It is almost as if we have come full circle. We began this quarter learning about God's beautiful creation, and we are closing with a reminder of the purpose and meaning of all that has come to be.

This dream is described as a time when all will live together in harmony and there will be no violence or pain. The writer wants us to imagine a place where children are safe and where enemies could live side by side and have no desire to hurt or destroy each other. We are invited to step into a new reality and imagine what the world could be.

Each of us can participate in this dream, even children. We can begin joining in God's vision by also being dreamers. When we read this Scripture, we can begin to wonder what kind of world God desires. We answer this call by offering compassion, kindness, and goodness to our hurting world. Imagine God's kingdom being here on earth, and a world where everyone can partake in this dream. What a blessing.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Who do you know who is different from yourself? What makes that person different? Do you struggle having a relationship with this person? Why?

Today's Scripture invites us to a world of peace. This does not mean we must agree with everyone, but it does ask us to strive for peace. Can you be a person of peace, despite differences?

This week take time to write down three statements that you and others can agree on and three points on which you do not agree. Pray about these statements and ask God for ways you can find peace in the midst of disagreement.

Welcome to Wonder

- Gather together near your Wonder Table.

WONDER together:

- What might it be like to lie down with a wild animal?
- How can you be peaceful?

CONTINUE to Wonder:

- How can you be a blessing for the whole world?

PRAY together

- Dear God, thank for teaching me how a blessing of peace. Amen.

SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or Download "Very Good" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play "Everywhere You Go."
- Sing and celebrate.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Wonder Cube (Digital Pack) optional, CEB Bible, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook

READ the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story, Isaiah 11:6-9.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answers a few of the questions.

WATCH the Bible Story

- Visit (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video>) to download and watch today's Bible story.

SHARE the Faith Word

- Faith Word: BLESSING - A blessing is all the things God provides.

WONDER: How can we bless others with peace?

God's World (Art)

Supplies: CEB Bible, recycled magazines, scissors, glue and glue sticks, paper

SAY: What do you think God sees when God looks at the world? What do you see? Do you and God see the same things?

- Create a collage of God's vision for the world.
- Reflect on today's Scripture (Isaiah 11:6–9), to spark your imagination.
- Share your art with your friends and family.

Spiritual Practice—Exploring God's blessings through prayer

Supplies: Celebration Chart, Family Activity Book, (optional), Advent wreath (digital class pack), candles, or LED lights

SAY: This week is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the time we get ready for the birth of Jesus.

WONDER: What do you do to get ready for Christmas? What does your family do to get ready?

- Light a candle or the first candle on your advent wreath.

SAY: Today we think about the word hope.

WONDER: What does hope mean?

PRAY: God of hope, help us create a peaceful world for all. Amen.