

# Blessed are the Peacemakers

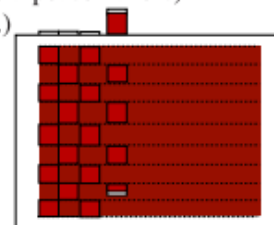
## Tapestry of Peace

3. **Cut** out numbered strips on first sheet and stack in numerical order. These will be the threads.
4. **Cut** along dotted lines on second sheet. This will be the loom.

### Activity:

(Younger children will need help from an older sibling or parent.)

1. **Ask:** What is a tapestry? (A piece of fabric with pictures or designs formed by weaving colored threads, used as a wall hanging.)
2. **Explain:** Together as a family we are going to weave a small tapestry out of paper. (Show the loom.) For each "thread" (show strips of paper) that is woven into the loom we will discuss situations where we can be peacemakers.
3. **Ask:** What is a peacemaker? (A peacemaker is someone who helps others be happy instead of angry.)
4. **Weaving activity:** (After each situation ask: What will you do to be a peacemaker?) Start with situation (a). Weave strip #1 into the loom. (See diagram.)



- a. Your younger sister kicked over your block tower.
  - b. Your siblings are fighting over the last piece of cake.
  - c. During a ball game a player on the other team trips you.
  - d. Your brother grabs the TV remote out of your hands.
  - e. A classmate makes fun of your art project.
  - f. You're trying to sleep and your sister is being noisy.
  - g. You finally get a chance to play a video game and your friend wants a turn.
  - h. Your friends won't let the new girl play because she's of another faith.
  - i. Your brother wants to play with the toy you're playing with.
  - j. Some neighborhood kids are making fun of another child because he doesn't speak English very well.
  - k. The boy who sits behind you in class is always pulling your hair.
5. When you've finished weaving, turn over and tape along edges to hold strips in place. Make small cuts along left and right edges to make a fringe. Read the message on tapestry and bear testimony of the happiness that comes from being a peacemaker.
  6. During the upcoming week choose a child each day who has been a peacemaker and award them the tapestry to hang in their room or on their door.

## The Freedom of Peace

Materials needed: clear plastic bottle, balloon (uninflated), permanent marker, scissors (optional)

Explain that the tension in our lives that comes from conflict and fighting put limits on how much we can invite God into our homes and hearts. Explain that the bottle represents this conflict. Brainstorm examples of conflicts that arise in your home, at school, at work, or other places that you spend time. Write them on the bottle with the marker. Then, hold the opening of the balloon and slide the balloon inside the bottle, holding the opening of the balloon just outside the bottle neck. Try to blow up the balloon. It will not inflate. This is like when God offers us his grace and blessings - if we are holding onto conflict or allowing it to be present in our lives, we are not able to make room to receive the fullness of God's love and grace for us. God calls us to be peacemakers. Remove the balloon and brainstorm some ideas of how you might bring peace to the conflicts written on the bottle. You might cut up the bottle as you list ideas, or else once all ideas have been discussed, crumple up the bottle. Explain that if we work to make peace in our lives and in the spaces around us (to the amount that we can control) and let go of the things that we cannot change, then we experience the freedom of the Peace of Christ. Inflate the balloon without the bottle. Note the freedom the balloon has to be fully inflated.