

TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: PEACE

HOOK

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

There once was a King who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The King looked at all the pictures, but there were only two he really liked and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror, for peaceful towering mountains were all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace.

The other picture had mountains, too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell and in which lightening played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all. But when the King looked, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest in perfect peace.

Which picture do you think won the prize? The King chose the second picture. Do you know why?

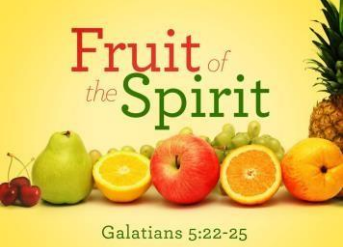
“Because” explained the King, “peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace.”

When we think of peace, we usually think of a situation where everything is fine and nice, where there is no fighting, no problems, no challenges.

That may be so, but the peace of the Holy Spirit is a bit different.

It's a peace that is not dependent on circumstances or situations. It is an inner calmness even in the middle of a storm.

It is a peace that we can have because Jesus is in us and we are in Him!



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PEACE IN THE STORM (Mark 4:35-41)

Read the story of Jesus in the boat during the storm. (Mark 4:35-41)

Why were the disciples so afraid? <Big winds, waves that would scare even seasoned fishermen>

Have you ever been afraid? Stressed? Worried?

What would our natural reaction be? We would pray that Jesus calm the storm immediately, right? We would pray that the wind stops right away!

And in this incident, on the Sea of Galilee, the frightened disciples woke Jesus up and He did shut the storm up (He's God and He's all powerful!).

But even if the disciples didn't wake Jesus, even if Jesus didn't calm the storm, is it possible to be at peace?

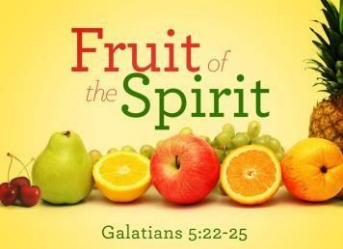
Jesus is in the boat with us — He's the one who said, "Let us go to the other side ...". He is not bringing us into the middle of the lake to drown.

Sometimes, even if He does allow the storm to rage on, no matter how big the storm is, no matter how much water is flooding into the boat, we will get through it because Jesus is with us and we have His peace.

Jesus cares! The disciples weren't sure ("Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"). Sometimes when we face problems, we feel God isn't there, that He doesn't care. But we need to remind ourselves that Jesus really loves us, He cares for us and He never leaves us!

Jesus could sleep through the storm. When we really know Jesus is with us, we can rest (or even smile) in the storm. We can experience His peace. We just keep our eyes on Jesus through it all!

The storm is the ups and downs in our life. Because of Jesus, we can be at peace because He will bring peace amidst the storm of our life.



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LESSON

But Jesus is not physically with us today! It's different if we have someone whose hand we can hold when we are fearful.

Jesus had to go back to heaven so that the Holy Spirit can come and live in our hearts. And He will remind us about the peace that Jesus has given to us.

John 14:26-27 *But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

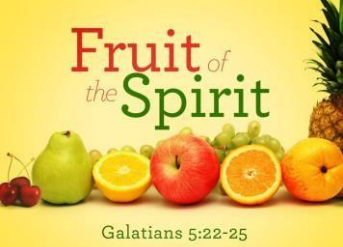
Jesus also tells us that life will not always be rosy, that there will be challenges and problems in life. But we can have peace because His spirit is in us. And the fruit of the spirit is peace.

Jesus told the disciples this before He went back to heaven. He wanted to reassure them that He has won the victory and He is coming back for us some day.

John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Tomorrow we celebrate our country's Independence Day. Even though there may a lot of troubles in our country now, we can remember God's goodness and presence and have peace.

Let's continue to speak Jesus' life and peace into Malaysia!



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ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Song: Fruit of the Spirit (by Steve Green) — revision

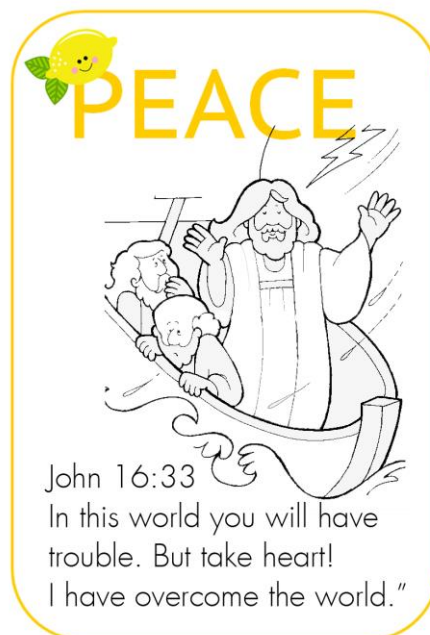
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLJt_85MNLY

Merdeka-related craft

Memory Verse challenge:

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Worksheet:



Invite children to accept Jesus in their life to receive His peace.

Thank you Jesus, I have Your life so I have Your peace even in the midst of the storms.