

RELIGIOUS STUDIES CURRICULUM Year 5-6 THE PRACTICE OF PEACE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: *These lesson plans were developed through a collaborative project of the Anglican Schools Commission WA (Elizabeth Flanigan); Pace e Bene Australia (Brendan McKeague and Michael Wood), with the assistance of grant funding from The Australian Research Theology Foundation (ARTFinc).*

TRAINING FOR UNIT: *It is highly recommended that all staff teaching this unit undertake the associated one-day teacher training program provided by Pace e Bene (Australia). Contact Brendan McKeague (+61 429 448090) or Michael Wood (+61 435 065326) for more information.*

Lesson Themes: *lessons can be extended over more than one week, or across curriculum areas as appropriate*

- 1. What is Peace?** What does it look like, feel like, sound like?
Nonviolence is central to the Gospel of Jesus. The term 'nonviolence' is more than the absence of violence. It is the exploration of the conditions required to embody peace with justice, expressed variously as Shalom; The Reign of God; Reconciliation and Forgiveness. Using the words and ideas discussed, students write a peace poem and create an artwork/picture to show/describe what peace is like for them.
- 2. Jesus - the role model.** Jesus stands up for what is right, taking a peaceful and nonviolent approach, even when faced with violence. When peace is broken, Jesus models forgiveness and a new way of dealing with difference and conflict.
- 3. How is our peace broken?** Looking at various ways that peace can be disturbed in our own lives and the tendency to find someone else to blame or 'scapegoat'.
- 4. Who will I make peace with?** Understanding the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation and developing the communication skills needed to engage constructively with 'the other' with whom there is disagreement or conflict.
- 5. How is peace broken in other places?** Consider some examples of war and violent conflict in national and international scenarios, especially through the eyes and voices of children.
- 6. Who is taking action to do something about this?** International case studies - finding out about people who are using nonviolent strategies and skills to engage with these conflicts
- 7. Who is taking action to do something about this?** Local and national case studies - finding out about people in Australia who are using nonviolent strategies and skills to engage with disagreements and conflict.
- 8. A Peace Project.** In this part of the programme – students have the opportunity to engage with a peacebuilding project or with a group of people/person that may be different to them. They could do this individually, in small groups or even as a whole class.

Brendan McKeague mckeaguebrendan@gmail.com
Elizabeth Flanigan Elanigan@jsracs.wa.edu.au
Michael Wood spacemaker62@gmail.com