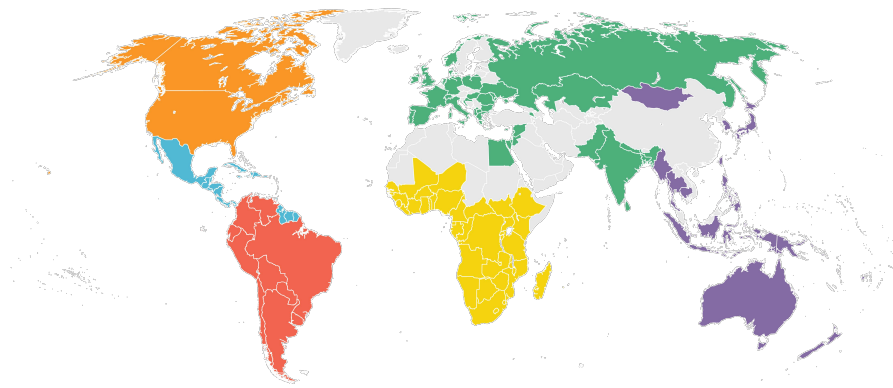


NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

18 December 2024

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD



WEEK 4 PEACE


This is week four of our special Advent series. Over the coming weeks of the season leading up to Christmas, NMI Central and Kids Kaleidoscope will introduce you to some of the unique traditions that are kept across the Global Church of the Nazarene. We hope you enjoy this wonderful Season of Advent, Christmastide, and Epiphany.

When the Prince of Peace came, and Immanuel was ‘with us’, it was with the purpose of building bridges for all people to find their way home to God. Christ broke down all the dividing walls and brought peace to the earth.

The “Shalom” [peace] of God is known when all things are as they were meant to be. It is a deep and abiding sense of well-being, fulfillment, and blessing—something we wish for everyone.

Nazarenes have sought to be agents of peace, offering help and care, healing, and grace. In the midst of suffering, Nazarenes have shared the touch of Jesus with the dispossessed, discouraged, and disenfranchised. Those of us who know His peace are called to share it with those around us.

To learn more about the nativity scene and peace that only Jesus brings, check out the Advent Kids Kaleidoscope. One of the suggested activities is to make a Nativity bracelet that can be used to share Jesus' birth and the peace that He brings with others. Kids Kaleidoscope is a special NMI Central supplement created to help children, youth, and adults learn more about our Nazarene family around the world.



Advent Kid's Kaleidoscope


Week #4 – PEACE


Who do you think of when you think of the word peace?

Welcome to Advent Kids Kaleidoscope Week #4 about peace! What does peace mean? The dictionary says can is quiet, harmony, free from violence, hostility, and fear. If you close your eyes and think of peace what comes to your mind? Who do you think of when you think of the word peace? Maybe Jesus, the Bible tells us He is the prince of peace. When he came to earth as a baby it wasn't very peaceful, there were a lot of people who didn't like the idea of this new king coming. But the only way we can have peace in our lives is if we invite Jesus in. He is peace and we have peace in knowing him.


Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, and in many places you will see a Nativity scene, or a manger scene. These can be decorations, tree ornaments, you might even act out this scene in your church. What exactly a Nativity scene looks like will depend on where you live in the world. Some places it can look like a wooden shelter, in other places, it could be a tent, it could even be a cave. What it looks like is not as important as who should be at the center of it. A baby wrapped in cloth, laying on hay or grass in the place where normally you find animals food. This is called the Grèche or crèche which comes from the latin word for crib or cradle. In French the word means nursery, in Spanish the word is pesebre and in Italian presepe. In English we know it as a Nativity scene.

Below color the most important part of the nativity scene, baby Jesus. Then, draw other people, animals and items you might find in a nativity scene where you live. Then on the next page you can make a bracelet to wear to remember the story of how the Prince of peace came to earth, and you can use your bracelet to tell the story to others, sharing the hope, love, joy and peace of Jesus.





Nativity Bracelet Craft



Tell the story of Jesus' birth with the help of your Nativity bracelet.
Create the bracelet using beads, or just color the one below. Whichever you choose, every time you wear this, you can remember and share with others that:


"He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".
Isaiah 9:6

and all of this happened because:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16

To make the bracelet you will need the following items:

- a pipe cleaner or string
- beads of any kind in the following colors:
 - pink, white, orange, gray, brown, blue, green, purple
- yellow star bead or just a regular yellow bead
- a small jingle bell




String the beads onto the pipe cleaner or string in the following order:

1. Pink – represents Mary, the mother of Jesus.
2. White – for the Angel that told her not to be afraid and that she would have a baby, the son of God.
3. Orange – is for Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, who loved him and took great care of him.
4. Gray – to remind us of the donkey that carried Mary and her baby on the long journey to Bethlehem.
5. Brown – represents the stable, the only place Mary and Joseph could find to rest among the animals.
6. Blue – is for baby Jesus, the Savior of the World.
7. Green – to remind us of the shepherds who were taking care of their sheep in the fields, and came to worship baby Jesus.
8. Yellow star bead or Yellow bead – for the star that shone brightly above the place where Jesus was born, letting all those who saw it, know something special happened there.
9. Purple – for the three wise men who traveled great distances following the star to be bring presents to the king.
10. Jingle bell – to remind us to make some noise, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, coming to earth to save His people from sin and darkness. This news is too good to keep to ourselves, we need to share it!

When all the beads are on the pipe cleaner or string, tie or wrap the ends together to close the bracelet. If you colored the bracelet below, tape the ends together.

Then, practice sharing the story of Jesus' birth using your new Nativity Bracelet.



Source: <http://adventkiddskaleidoscope.com/christmas-story-bracelet-and-scene/>

As we approach the day of celebration, may we all be hopeful as we prepare, loving as we lean into the world around us, joyful as we share with others, and peaceful in a world that needs to know that Immanuel is with us! Jesus is Lord. Merry Christmas!

Did You Know?

Silent Night is considered the most commonly sung Christmas carol around the world, translated into more languages than any other? "Stille Nacht" was written by Joseph Mohr in 1816, and put to music by Franz Gruber in 1818.



Click [here](#) to download the rest of Kids Kaleidoscope for Week #4 of Advent as we learn more about the peace of Christmas around the world.

PRAYER



- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! And, for all who are suffering in the nations of the Middle East.
 - Pray for your Nazarene family who encounter the displaced and despairing around the world today; that they may be ambassadors of peace.
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PRAISE



- Praise God for your missionaries who serve around the world, messengers of peace and good will towards all of humankind.
- Praise the Lord for whatever part He calls you to, or enables you to play, in His mission of building bridges of peace in the world today.

Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to participate in His mission?

For more information, click [here](#).

NMI Central is available in a curated PDF archive.

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