



Messy Remembrance

This has really happened in recent years. When the civil war came to an end in Mozambique, churches in that country ran a project which was inspired by these words from Micah; it was called 'Swords into Ploughshares'. Weapons from the civil war were given up in return for useful tools and farm machinery.

Talk about: What would you say are essential tools for peace?

Key verse:

They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Micah 4:3 (NIV)

7. An oil and water experiment

Oil and water will not mix, however hard you shake them up. Try this with some dyed water and cooking oil. Opposites can be brought together if something else is added that reacts with both. In this case, try adding in some washing-up liquid. See this link for full instructions: sciencekids.co.nz/experiments/oilandwater.html

In war, people quickly take sides and often refuse to come together to solve their differences. Christians are called like Jesus to be peacemakers who break down those differences and bring people together again.

Talk about: What sorts of things cause people to distrust and come to hate each other?

Key verse:

[Jesus said:] 'Live at peace with each other.'

Mark 9:50 (CEV)

8. Edible poppies

Use the following ideas to create various forms of edible poppies on a paper plate.

- **Fruit poppies:** surround a black grape with slices from a large strawberry as the petals.
- **Vegetable poppies:** surround a black olive with slices of tomato as petals.
- **Sweet poppies:** surround a black Liquorice Allsort with royal icing dyed red as the petals.

Talk about why poppies are used for Remembrance in western countries. The poppy is a common sight in the war cemeteries of the world and also on war memorials and in churches, particularly in the month of November. The poppy has now

become a globally recognised symbol for remembering those who have died in wars. Scarlet corn poppies grow naturally in disturbed earth across western Europe and so it is not surprising that they should have been seen in the war-ravaged fields of northern France and Belgium during and after World War I. A Canadian poet, John McCrae, picked up on this connection is his poem 'Flanders Fields' in 1915:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

This quickly led on to the poppy's being adopted as a lasting symbol for those who had been killed. The Royal British Legion adopted it for their annual Poppy Appeal in aid of those serving in the British Armed Forces from 1921 onwards.

Talk about: Do you know why the poppy is used as a symbol for Remembrance?

Key verse:

God brings wars to an end all over the world. He breaks the arrows, shatters the spears, and burns the shields.

Psalms 46:9 (CEV)

9. A cooperative game

You will need five paper cups. Turn them upside down and write the five letters of PEACE on the base of the cups – one letter on each cup. Mix the cups up so the word PEACE is no longer together nor the cups next to each other. Now tie a length of string for each person in the team playing the game to one elastic band. By working together to stretch the elastic band, pick up one cup at a time and reassemble them all to spell PEACE. Players are not allowed to touch the elastic band, each other or the cups! Take it a stage further and challenge them to build a pyramid of peace with the cups.

Working for peace takes a great deal of effort and concentration by all involved!

Talk about: Why is making peace harder than making war?

Key verse:

When peacemakers plant seeds of peace, they will harvest justice.

James 3:18 (CEV)