

PEACE: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

FOR MANY PEOPLE, EVEN THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS THIS WEEK'S WORD OF THE WEEK IS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING PASSAGES IN THE GOSPELS. IT SEEMS TO EXPRESS SOMETHING THAT IS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC AND UNATTAINABLE. BUT ISN'T IT AN IDEAL WORTH TRYING TO MAKE A REALITY?

WORD OF THE WEEK

THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

"Love your enemies; do good to those who hurt you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who treat you spitefully. When someone hits you on the cheek, offer them the other cheek too; when someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you; when someone takes what is yours, do not demand it back. Treat others as you would like them to treat you."

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, you who are called Prince of Peace, grant us peace. Make all of us witnesses of truth, justice and love. Eliminate from our hearts whatever might endanger peace. May all people on earth become brothers and sisters. May longed for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all. Amen.

BLESSED ARE THE
peacemakers:
FOR THEY SHALL
BE CALLED THE
children of God.

Matthew 5:9

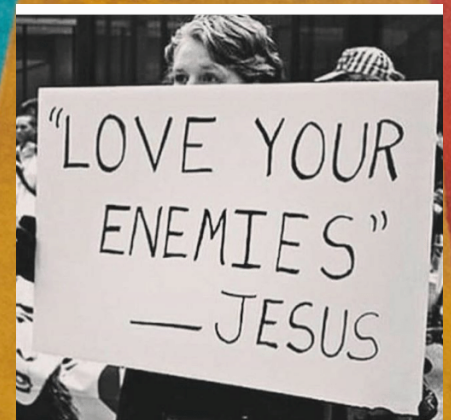


**Can you think of someone or a situation that you need to respond to with love and peace?
Can you think of someone you may consider an enemy?
Can you think of a way you could respond peacefully towards them?**

Take a look at the Powerpoint on the staff shared area. There are a number of quotes about peace for you to read and reflect on. Discuss with the person next to you the following questions.

**What can we learn from each quote about being a peacemaker?
How do they encourage us to act? What reason do they give to explain why working for peace is important for Christians?
What method of peace making do they suggest?**

"It's true, God the Father is merciful, are you? Are you merciful with people who have hurt you? Or who do not love you? Pray for the ones who hurt me? Yes because it changes lives."



**Pope Francis Peace Challenge
Make a list of 6 ways you can demonstrate peace and love to those who are not easy to love.**



CONFLICT TREE

THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN LIVES. WHERE DO YOU SEE CONFLICT? AT HOME? IN SCHOOL? IN OUR COMMUNITIES? IN THE WORLD?

DRAW A CONFLICT TREE:

- 1. PUT THE CAUSES OF THE CONFLICT ON THE ROOTS.**
- 2. PUT THE RESULTS OF THE CONFLICT ON THE BRANCHES.**
- 3. ON THE LEAVES SUGGEST POSSIBLE WAYS OF RESOLVING THE CONFLICT.**

HOW DO YOU RESOLVE CONFLICT IN YOUR OWN LIFE?

