

# 2011 Peace with Justice Sunday Children's Sermon

## Title: Let Us Live in Peace

Leader: In one of our Bible readings today (2 Corinthians 13:11b, NRSV), the apostle Paul tells us to "agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you." What does that mean to you?

*Children respond.*

What does it mean when I say, "Agree with one another, and live in peace"? Does it mean you should agree with everyone?

*Children respond.*

No, it does not mean that. But it means you should not argue with your friends, family or anyone else. You can disagree peacefully, while still being kind to others and treating people like brothers and sisters in Christ.

So what does it mean to live in peace?

*Children respond.*

It means not arguing or getting upset or angry. It means not fighting or picking on anyone or threatening to hurt someone. It means you should not be a bully.

What is a bully?

*Children respond.*

Has anyone ever bullied, threatened or picked on you?

*Children respond.*

Has anyone here ever been a bully to someone else or threatened to hurt another person? Be honest now. Do you know what the word "intimidate" means?

*Children respond.*

It means to cause fear or to make someone afraid. Bullies do that, don't they? And that's not good. That's not living in peace with others. Instead, it hurts. It hurts the person who is bullied, and it hurts the bully, too. Why?

*Children respond.*

Because it's a sin that separates the bully from God.

The God of love and peace and justice is with people who live in peace. And the bully is away from God, all alone. Where would you rather be?

*Children respond.*

Today we celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday. That's when we talk about how important it is to live in peace and to be fair — or just — toward all people, including children like you. God wants us to be peaceful and just in our homes, our schools, our communities and the world. That means you don't bully others. And if you see someone being bullied or treated unfairly, what should you do?

*Children respond.*

You should tell a person in charge and ask him or her to stop it. You don't argue or get angry or fight; but you peacefully try to stop bullying whenever you see it. OK?

We want to live in peace with each other; and we want the God of love and peace to be with us. Right?

*Children respond.*

Now let's pray. Who wants to pray for peace?

*If no one volunteers to pray, say:*

Dear God, we know you want us to be kind to each other. Help us to teach others that being mean and being a bully is not following God's plan for us to live peacefully with each other. We love you. Amen.