

Peace-Makers

Muhammad: Replacing the Stone at the Kaaba (Islamic)

PREVIEW

- ✓ Review Guidelines
- ✓ Background – Islam/Muhammad
- ✓ Lesson/Story
- ✓ Creative Response – Kaaba Craft
- ✓ Activity – Carrying the Stone
- ✓ Take-Home Opportunity – Peace in the Midst of Arguing
- ✓ Images Provided – Churches, Mosques, Muslim Men Praying, Artist Rendering, Story Illustration, Kaaba, Black Stone

REVIEW

Briefly discuss last week's Take-Home Opportunity: Peace Between Siblings

Review previous stories/lessons.

Theme: What peace means and popular symbols of peace

Loo-Wit (Native American): Two brothers and their tribes couldn't remain peaceful, so the Great Spirit turned the brothers into mountains and put Loo-Wit in the middle to maintain peace.

BACKGROUND – ISLAM/MUHAMMAD

Prompt: Today, we'll talk about another peace-maker. His name was Muhammad. People who view Muhammad as a prophet and follow his teachings are part of a particular religion. Does anyone know what religion that is? [Islam]

Prompt: People who are part of the Islamic religion are called Muslims. They go to church, too, but they don't call it a church. They call it a mosque. Churches all look different on the outside, but there are certain features you often see. [Show images on p. 27.] What kinds of things do you usually see on the outside of churches? [steeple, crosses, maybe stained-glass windows]

Prompt: The same is true of mosques; they all look different, but there are certain features you often see. [Show images on pp. 28-30]. What features do you see in these images? [Consistent features are a dome and one or more minarets, so make sure they know these words.]

Prompt: Muslims often pray several times a day. Guess how often many Muslims pray each day? [Play higher/lower game until they get to five.]

Prompt: Muslims who pray five times a day offer a short prayer at various times during the day. They pray just before sunrise, around noon, in the late afternoon, just after sunset, and then before they go to bed. Most Muslims pray in the same way, and they pray on the ground. Usually, they pray on

PEACE

BACKGROUND – ISLAM/MUHAMMAD (cont.)

the carpet or on a prayer mat. Here's a picture of some Muslim men praying. [Show image on p. 31, and point out the mats, the prayer posture, and the fact that some men wear a prayer cap.]

Prompt: In most mosques, the men and the women pray separately. That's why you see only men in this particular picture, even though women pray in exactly the same way. Usually, the men all line up and pray in the front of the room. The women line up behind them.

LESSON/STORY

Supplies

World map

Prompt: In our religion, Christianity, we have lots of stories about Jesus. In Islam, they have lots of stories about the Prophet Muhammad. This story happened when Muhammad was a fairly young man, and it's a great example of how he was a peace-maker for his people.

Read: Replacing the Stone at the Kaaba – Part I

Once upon a time, there was a very famous temple situated in a town called Mecca. The temple was so famous people would come from miles around to see it. The pilgrims, as they were called, travelled for many days over the hot desert sand on their camels. They came to offer prayers to the statues inside, but they also came to see the amazing Black Stone. No one knew for sure where the stone had come from or how it had gotten there, but everyone knew the Black Stone was very rare, very valuable, and very special.

Abdul-Muttalib {ahb-DOOL moo-tah-leeb; both "oo" sounds are like "moon"} was one of the people who helped keep both the temple and the statutes clean. Everyone loved Abdul-Muttalib. He was smart and fair and kind. And he loved all the travelers who came to visit. He even made sure their camels were well-fed and comfortable.

One night, Abdul-Muttalib had an interesting dream. It was about a very deep well filled with water, and it was located right under the sacred temple. When Abdul-Muttalib awoke, he started digging. He dug and dug and dug. Everyone thought he was crazy, and they weren't too happy that he was ruining the floor of the temple!

Soon, however, the digging paid off. Under the temple floor, between two of the most important statues, was a well full of water just like in the dream. Abdul-Muttalib began sharing the sacred water with the visiting pilgrims, and this made the temple more popular than ever.

Abdul-Muttalib's grandson also liked to help out at the temple. His name was Muhammad, and Abdul-Muttalib could tell, even when Muhammad was just a little boy, that he was a very special child. When Muhammad's father and mother both died, he moved in with his grandfather. Muhammad was sad about his parents, but Abdul-Muttalib loved him very much and took him to the temple often, which made Muhammad very happy.

Prompt: Have any of you ever seen a well before? Have any of you ever used a well before? [Share]

LESSON/STORY (cont.)

Prompt: Abdul-Muttalib was Muhammad's grandfather. How many of you still have grandparents? What kinds of things do you like to do with them? Do you think you would like to live with your grandparents? [Share]

Read: Replacing the Stone at the Kaaba – Part II

Then, Abdul-Muttalib died, too. This time, Muhammad moved in with his aunt and uncle. They raised Muhammad until he was old enough to get a job, get married, and have children of his own.

Despite all the sadness in his life, Muhammad grew into a wonderful young man. He was successful in business, and he was known for being very trustworthy. In fact, his nickname was *al-Amin* {ahl-ah-MEEN}, which means "One Who is Honest and Truthful."

One day, Muhammad had an opportunity to live up to his nickname. It happened at the sacred temple.

You see, after so many years and so many visitors, the temple was getting a bit tattered and worn. The stone walls were cracked, and a recent flood had damaged the foundation. People were a little nervous about tearing down the old temple, but the time had come to make it safer and more secure.

They added new bricks, made the temple walls stronger, and fixed the cracks in the floor. Now when the pilgrims rode into Mecca on their camels, they would find a rebuilt temple that was more lovely and more splendid than ever before. The temple project went along, mostly as planned, until it was time to return the Black Stone to its place of honor. It seemed everyone wanted the job.

"We are a very powerful tribe in Mecca," said the first tribal leader. "We should be the ones to handle the Black Stone."

"But we are a very rich tribe in Mecca," said the second tribal leader. "We should be the ones to handle the Black Stone."

"Enough!" said the third tribal leader. "Our ancestors were here long before yours, so we should be the ones to put the Black Stone back in place."

"Our tribe wants to handle the Black Stone," said the fourth tribal leader. "And we will never give in, even if it means war!"

All four tribal chiefs were incredibly set in their ways.

Finally, a wise old man offered a more peaceful suggestion.

"Instead of fighting," he said, "let us agree to a plan. Let's wait here in the sacred temple. The next person who walks in, no matter who it is, will determine which tribal leader gets to return the Black Stone to its place."

LESSON/STORY (cont.)

The four tribal leaders didn't have a better suggestion, and it really was starting to look like war, so they agreed. They all turned to face the entrance of the temple. And they waited.

Prompt: Why do you think the tribal leaders were arguing over a black stone? Why do you think it was so important? [It was a special object, something sacred from the temple.]

Prompt: You probably wouldn't argue with your friends over a black stone! But, you probably would argue over something really special. What kinds of things are really special to you? What kinds of things do you and your friends argue about? [Share]

Prompt: The four tribal leaders had all agreed to see who would walk in the door next. That person would be chosen to resolve the conflict. Can you guess who is going to walk in? [Brainstorm/Guess]

Read: Replacing the Stone at the Kaaba – Part III

It was Muhammad! The trustworthy *al-Amin*!

They explained the situation, and Muhammad agreed to hear each leader's argument. Muhammad listened very carefully, but when they had all finished speaking, Muhammad just sat there without saying a word. The tribal leaders were getting very impatient. What was the problem? Why wouldn't Muhammad make the decision? They were starting to think this was a terrible plan.

Finally, Muhammad started to speak, but what he said completely surprised everyone in the room. He said, "Bring me a cloth."

A cloth?! What in the world would they do with a cloth?! How was that going to be helpful?!

The tribal leaders watched as Muhammad placed the cloth on the ground. Then, he gently placed the precious Black Stone on the cloth and told each tribal chief to hold a corner.

"What is Muhammad up to?" they wondered. "Why doesn't he just pick a tribe and be done with it? We are much too busy and much too important to stand around holding the tiny corner of a piece of cloth!"

Muhammad then told the four men to lift the cloth off the ground. Slowly and carefully, the four tribal leaders worked together to move the Black Stone to its place of honor. Each of the four chiefs helped at the same time and in the same way. It was a beautiful solution!

At the very end, Muhammad, himself, lifted the Black Stone off the cloth and placed it into the alcove in the wall of the temple. Everyone breathed a big sigh of relief. The Black Stone was in place, and Muhammad had thought of a perfectly peaceful solution. His nickname, *al-Amin*, the One Who is Honest and Truthful, made more sense than ever.

And did you know you can still see that Black Stone today? Over the years, it broke into smaller pieces, but those pieces are now protected in a frame. And that frame can be found in the corner of that temple which has been rebuilt many times over the years. Millions of people pass by the temple and the Black Stone every year, just as they've done for centuries.

LESSON/STORY (cont.)

Prompt: Here's an image of that moment in time – when the four tribal leaders each helped carry the Black Stone by taking a corner of the cloth. You can see Muhammad in the center and the four tribal leaders carrying the cloth by the corners. [Show image on p. 32.]

Prompt: Many Muslims feel that showing any prophet, including the Prophet Muhammad, is inappropriate. The prophets are regarded as very special people, and many Muslims feel that showing them in pictures diminishes their holiness. That's why Muhammad is not shown in our story image. Instead, he is shown as a figure surrounded by light. [Show story illustration on p. 33.]

Prompt: This next photo shows the temple today. [Show image of Kaaba on p. 34.] It's called the Kaaba {KAH-buh}, and it's located in the country of Saudi Arabia. [Show where you are and where Saudi Arabia is on the world map.]

Prompt: The story we read happened over 1,000 years ago, so the temple has been reconstructed many, many times since then. It's still made of bricks, but it's covered by a huge black cloth embroidered with gold. The cloth is changed every year. Look how big it is compared to the people around it.

Prompt: Every year, millions of Muslims visit the Kaaba. They walk around it seven times to show their respect. The Black Stone is near the ground, on the corner closest to us, behind the people. Here is a close-up of the Black Stone. You can see the pieces inside the big, silver frame. [Show image of Black Stone on p. 35.]

CREATIVE RESPONSE – KAABA CRAFT

Supplies

One black cube template (p. 36) per person, scissors, tape, gold markers. Beads and hot glue gun/tacky glue are optional.

Helpful Hints

Kids in this age group really like to use hot glue guns, but they still need close supervision.

Preparation (optional)

Cut around the black cube templates.

Prompt: Today, we'll make our own version of the Kaaba.

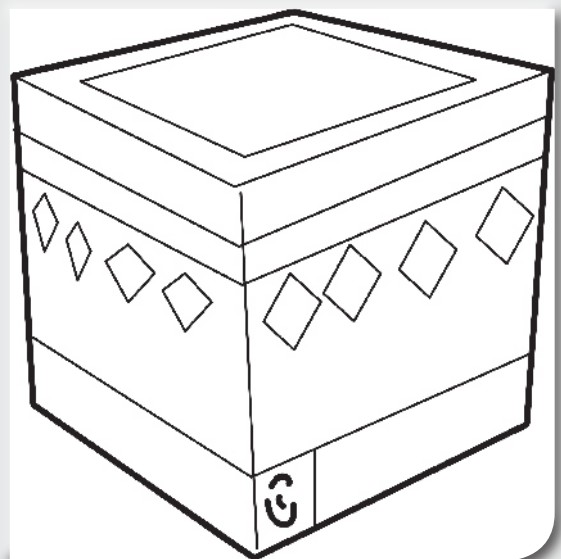
If not already done, have the kids cut around the outside edges of the cube template.

Fold along the solid lines to form a cube.

Tape the cube together using the tabs.

Decorate the outside of the cube with gold pens.

If you brought beads, they can apply a dab of hot glue/tacky glue in the lower left-hand corner and add a bead where the Black Stone would be.



PEACE

ACTIVITY – CARRYING THE STONE

Supplies

One 8” ring, four pieces of clothesline measuring 2-3 feet each, and one balloon (9” or larger) per group of four kids. A timer on a watch/cell phone is optional.

Helpful Hints

Embroidery rings work well, and if you separate them, you’ll get two for the price of one.

You can use thick yarn/string instead of clothes line.

Preparation (optional)

Blow up the balloons beforehand.

Tie the four pieces of clothesline to the ring.

Prompt: Today, we’ll do a fun activity that re-enacts the four tribal leaders carrying the stone on the cloth.

Basic Activity

Choose four kids to go first. Each child should hang onto one of the ropes coming off the hoop. Place a balloon on the hoop, and have the group walk, as quickly as possible, across the room. If they walk too quickly, the balloon will blow off.

If you have only one group of kids, play a few rounds and time them to see if they get better/faster with practice. If you have enough kids for two or more teams, the teams can compete.

Variations

Have the kids hold the clothesline close to the hoop and then farther away. See which one is easier/harder.

Have the kids hold the clothesline with their dominant hands. Then, have them hold the clothesline with their non-dominant hands.



TAKE-HOME OPPORTUNITY – PEACE IN THE MIDST OF ARGUING

Prompt: In our story for today, the Prophet Muhammad kept peace between the tribal leaders. This week, see if you can help the people around you be more peaceful when they are arguing. You might keep some kids at your school from arguing, or you might be able to help people in your family remain peaceful when they feel like arguing. Sometimes, you can help others be more peaceful just by using a calm voice.



[Wikimedia Commons: Church (public domain courtesy of Steve Karg)]



[Wikimedia Commons: Church of Sjalevad in Sweden (public domain courtesy of Rosendahl)]



[Wikimedia Commons: Schwetzingen Mosque, Germany (public domain courtesy of Goutamkhandelwal)]



[Wikimedia Commons: Sultan Haji Ahmad Mosque, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (public domain courtesy of Rizaliskandar)]



[Wikimedia Commons: Kocatepe Mosque, Ankara, Turkey (public domain courtesy of Noumenon)]



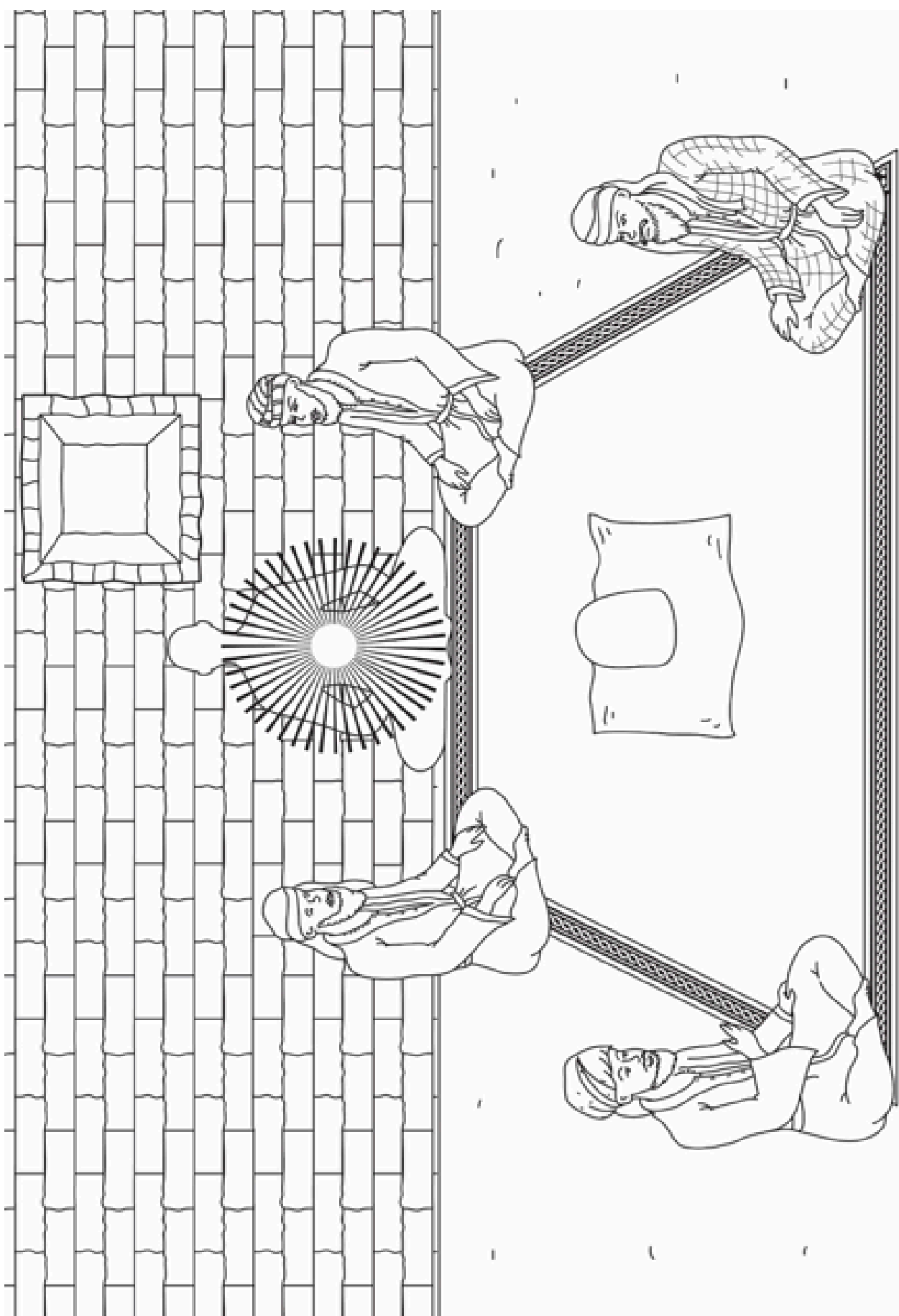
[Wikimedia Commons: Sehzade Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey (public domain, courtesy of Bizxzard)]



[Wikimedia Commons: Muslim Men Praying (public domain courtesy of US Marine Corps)]



[Wikimedia Commons: Prophet Muhammad lifting the black stone into its place at the Kaaba (public domain)]





[Wikimedia Commons: Kaaba, 1937 (public domain)]



[Wikimedia Commons: Close-up of the Black Stone (courtesy of Amerryan Muslim)]

