

Countervailing Extremism with Interfaith Education



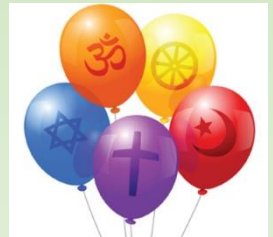
Parliament of the World's Religions

October 17-18, 2021



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Founder, Faith Seeker Kids

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Founder, Spiritual Playdate



Archbishop Desmond Tutu defined extremism as:

- 1) when you do not allow for a different point of view
- 2) when you hold your own views as being quite exclusive
- 3) when you don't allow for the possibility of difference

Building Skills for a Better Tomorrow

Nurture Coordinator & Curriculum Developer

Jubilee! Community Church, Asheville, NC

Kids aged 3 through High School

Three-Pronged Approach

- ancient stories/common themes
- creative arts and activities
- community service



Ancient Stories with Common Themes

Power of Story

- Holds attention and improves learning/memory
- Safe space to sort out conflict
- Connects us to others
- Perfect fit for human nature
- Side-steps creeds, doctrines



Common Themes

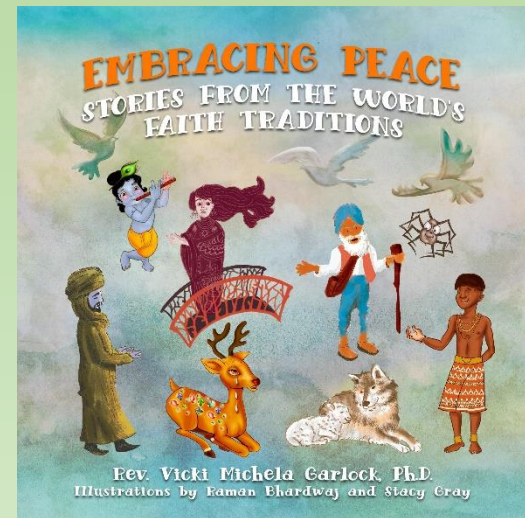
- How we got here/creation
- Living harmoniously and with compassion
- Handling greed, anger, envy, pride

Embracing Peace:

Stories from the World's Faith Traditions

16 Peace-Related Stories

8 Faith Traditions



Elephant and Hippopotamus Refuse to Fight, Varaha Saves the World, Tricking the Five Thieves, A Rabbi and Merchant Find Peace, Treaty at Hudabiyyah

Creative Arts and Activities

Crafts

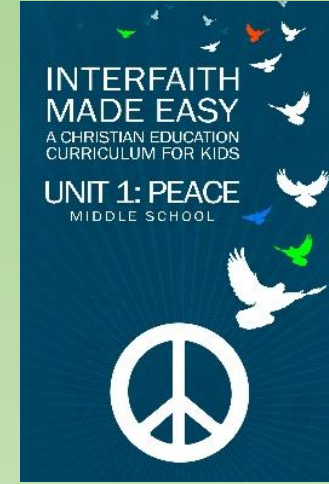
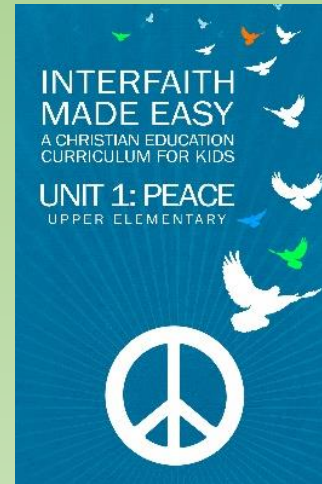
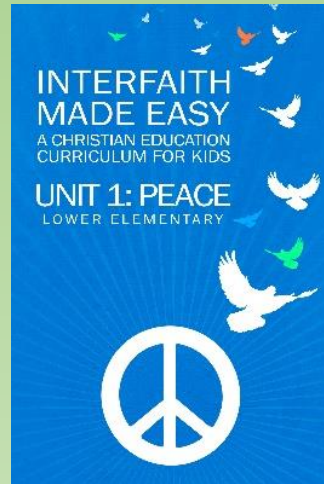
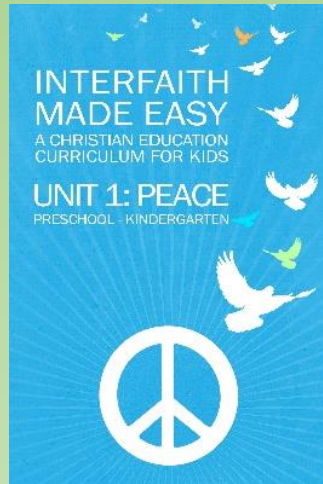
- Creative potential
- Honoring difference



Activities

- Team-Building
- Cooperative

Interfaith Made Easy: Unit #1 Peace



4 Age Groups

Preschool-Kind. Lower Elem. Upper Elem. Middle School

15 Lesson Plans

½ from Christian traditions and ½ from other world religions

Each Lesson Plan includes story, craft, and activity

No special training needed!

Incorporating Community Service

Kids-for-Kids

Kids-for-Earth

Kids-for-Animals

Kids-for-Adults



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Faith Seeker Kids Products

Embracing Peace: Stories from the World's Faith Traditions

(Eaton Press, 2021). 16 peace stories from 8 faith traditions.

We All Have Sacred Spaces (Eaton Press, 2020). Worship spaces – exterior and interior – from 7 faith traditions.

- 2021 Bronze Independent Publisher/"IPPY" Award, Multicultural Non-Fiction Juvenile/YA
- 2020 Gold Winner, Nonfiction Authors Association
- 2020 Finalist, Best Book Awards, Kids' Non-Fiction and Kids' Religious categories
- Five-Star Review, Readers' Favorites

Interfaith Made Easy: Unit #1 Peace (Possibilities Publishing, 2018-2019)

- 4 Volumes for 4 age groups (Preschool-Kind., Lower Elem., Upper Elem., Middle School)
- 15 lesson plans in each volume (age-appropriate prompts, story, craft, activity)
- Available in digital and hardcopy formats
- No advance training needed. Learn along with the kids!
- Includes suggestions for opening and closing rituals, community service projects, and more!