



Are you looking for resources for teaching what the Bible says about peacemaking?

Are you interested in what the Bible says about justice? Here are some resources that can be used in Sunday school classes (adult, youth, and children) or in a small group setting.

Current Curriculum Is For Everyone

If you are planning for your entire Sunday school program and also want to tie in worship and preaching on the same themes, try Current Curriculum All Church Bundle of resources which included everything. **Individual units for adults, particular grade levels, an intergenerational unit, and the worship piece can also be purchased separately.**

Current, is a *Shine* curriculum published jointly by MennoMedia and Brethren Press. This all-digital curriculum is downloadable and is perfect for use during the summer quarter or at any time of the year. The age level units, intergenerational plans, and worship resources are also sold separately. Buying the Whole Church Bundle can save you money if you will use more than one unit. Purchasing Current allows you to reproduce as many copies of the reproducible pieces as you need. Units include:

Current's **PreK–Kindergarten** digital content includes a full quarter of flexible session plans to help children ages 3–6 experience the Bible story and explore the unit theme. Also includes reproducible student pages, teaching resources, and a story picture for each session.

Current's **Elementary** digital content includes a full quarter of flexible session plans to help children grades 1–5 experience the Bible story and explore the unit theme. Also includes reproducible student pages, teaching resources, and a story picture and readers theater for each session to aid in storytelling for a wide age range.

Current's **Youth** digital content includes a full quarter of flexible session plans to help youth grades 6–12 experience the Bible story and explore the unit theme. Also includes reproducible student pages, teaching resources, and a readers theater for each session.

Current's **Intergenerational** digital content includes a full quarter of flexible session plans to engage children, youth, and adults in exploring the unit theme. Also includes reproducible student pages, teaching resources, and a readers theater for each session. The leader guide provides tips and helpful options for structuring learning in an intergenerational setting.

Current's **Adult** digital content is a guide with a full quarter of flexible session plans to engage adults in explore the unit theme. Permission is given to leaders to distribute the Bible background essay and session to participants prior to the session.

Current's **Worship Resources** digital content includes 13 weeks of resources to help churches connect with the unit theme in worship. Hymn suggestions, calls to worship, prayers, sermon seeds, and sending prayers help pastors and worship leaders craft liturgies that both inspire and challenge. Also includes the Bible background essay, readers theater, and Children's Moment for each week.

Current Units Available Are:



Seeking Justice Together

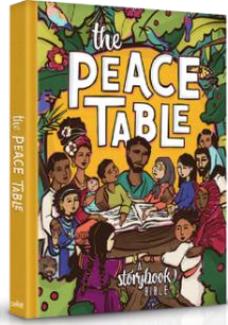
This was produced in 2021 as a downloadable curriculum. The unit theme, Seeking Justice Together, explores biblical justice and wholeness for humanity and all of creation.

Seeking Peace Together: This was produced in 2023 as a downloadable curriculum. This unit theme is Seeking Peace Together. It explores Bible stories that emphasize peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence.



For Children and Families

The Peace Table



is comprehensive storybook includes biblically faithful retellings of 140 Bible stories. It is the **key resource for the Shine Curriculum** produced published jointly by MennoMedia and Brethren Press. Along with each Bible story, there are prayer prompts, questions, and action ideas to guide reflection and conversation. Twelve “Peace Paths” allow children to “choose their own adventure” through the book, exploring how peace themes are woven throughout the Old and New Testaments. A resource section includes ideas for how to experience peace with God, self, others, and creation, as well as maps, Bible background information, interactive ways to pray, and prayers for many occasions. It is intended for use with the Shine curriculum and by families and faith communities who want their children to love Jesus, grow in faith, and become peacemakers who change the world!

Shine Curriculum is new each fall (Old Testament stories), winter (life of Jesus & included Christmas) and spring (the early church & included Easter) quarter. PreK-Kindergarten (ages 3-6 with tips for 2s), Elementary (grades 1-5), and Junior Youth (grades 6-8) are available.

Path to Peace Curriculum By Shine

Is for summer (or any time), **Shine’s new Path to Peace Curriculum** allows teachers and children to follow the peace paths in **The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible**. The curriculum includes faith formation materials for **PreK–Kindergarten** (ages 3-6) and **Elementary** (grades 1-5) age levels for 15 sessions. (There is no Junior Youth component to this curriculum.) Teacher’s guides are **available in both print and digital formats**. Both include access to music, additional activity ideas, and other digital resources.

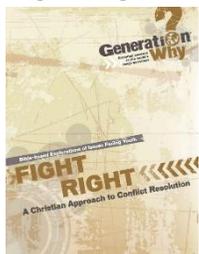
While these flexible units are **great for use during the summer**, they are undated and **can be used any time of the year**. A new unit of the *Path to Peace Curriculum* will be published each summer, focusing on another peace path. The paths are: Peace With Creation (2024), Peace With God (2025), Peace Inside (2026), and Peace With Others (2027). **An additional resource that accompanies this curriculum and can be used independently at home along with The Peace Table is a deck of 52 “Follow the Peace Path” Cards**. The cards are packed with ideas for families to do at home together. These cards are a great way to stay connected with families and provide parents and caregivers with an easy and fun faith formation resource.

For Youth

Generation Why Curriculum

is designed to Help youth apply the Bible to real life and discuss their faith. Updated for a new generation, this all-in-one curriculum guides youth and their leaders on a journey for meaning and identity. *Generation Why* encourages youth to encounter and explore Scripture to make it their own. In a time of violence, injustice, materialism, and hard questions, *Generation Why* offers a different point of view. These units are downloadable or in print. There are 16 units on various topics. These units relate most directly to peace and justice issues.

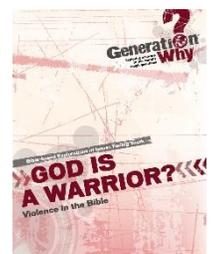
Fight Right

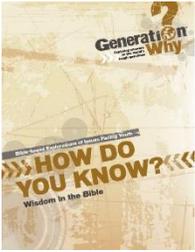


What is the best way to view and deal with conflict? Even if it’s uncomfortable, even painful, conflict is a necessary part of the most loving, harmonious, and united relationships. It’s not something inherently bad or dangerous. The Bible is packed with records of conflicts, from Adam and Eve, to Abraham, to Moses, to the prophets, to Jesus, and particularly among early Christian communities. Today’s youth are learning to see conflict as a positive force for transformation, and this study can help them learn how to respond with skill and insight. It is through an appreciation of differences that we can bring life, excitement, and positive change to our relationships. This unit has 5 sessions and an extender session.

God Is A Warrior?

Is the Bible friend or foe to the peacemaker? The Bible challenges us to be reconciled to one another and work for justice. So what do we do with the stories that seem to condone violence or even encourage it? How do we reconcile a “warrior” God with the God of love embodied in Jesus? In a world filled with violence, is following Jesus’ Way of nonviolent confrontation realistic? This unit leads you and your group to grapple with these tough questions, with the help of new insight and information about stories of “violence.” This unit has 6 sessions and an extender session.



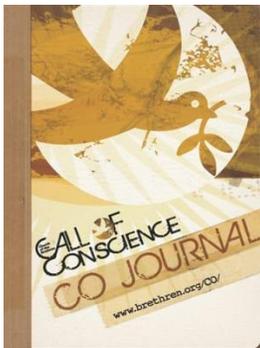
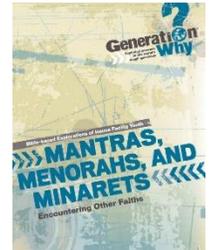


How Do You Know?

How do you find the good life? The teachers who wrote down the proverbs and other wisdom literature were responsible for making their students aware, wise, and smart—the way to keep people out of trouble. While other parts of the Bible talk about how God gets involved in life and protects us, wisdom emphasizes that people can figure out right and wrong without having to be zapped by a divine lightning bolt. Wisdom—available to everyone at all times—teaches that we gain knowledge of the world, ourselves, and God through experience and observation. It also asks questions central to the human condition—about divine justice, about fairness, and about suffering of the innocent. This unit has 5 sessions and an extender session.

Mantras, Menorahs, and Minarets

Why should I commit to Jesus when other religions also claim to have truth? Religion is the way humans have wrestled with fundamental questions about the purpose and problems of living. Beginning with “Big Questions,” this study looks at how Christianity compares and contrasts with other major religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam. It is a broad overview intended to help youth learn from the thoughts and beliefs of others—even their unfamiliar theologies. Part of our Christian calling is to be open to learning and making friends with people of other faiths. Study of major world religions can expand appreciation for the uniqueness of Jesus. This unit has 5 sessions and an extender session.



Call Of Conscience Curriculum & CO Journal

The *CO Journal* accompanies *Call of Conscience*, a curriculum to help Church of the Brethren youth develop their beliefs about peace and conscientious objection. **The leader’s guide and reproducible handouts are available free at <http://www.brethren.org/CO>.** If the leader uses the reproducible handouts, youth should each have a blank book for journaling. This CO Journal takes the place of the reproducible handouts and the blank book. The CO Journal contains most of the handouts, along with extra prayers and questions for journaling, and has been prepared so that **it is possible for a reader to use it independently.** Because of this it varies slightly from the online version.

For Adults

Covenant Bible Studies

The Covenant Bible Study series was originally intended for intentional small group use. “Covenant Group” sessions were 2 hours long with one hour for fellowship, group building, prayer and sharing followed by an hour for studying the Bible lesson, reflection and discernment about its meaning for today. Covenant Groups are small groups called to make a covenant with each other to meet regularly and attend all sessions. “They will gather around God’s word to discern its meaning for today and share openly with one another. An atmosphere of trust is built within the group, in which support will grow, and faith will deepen. Each person’s contribution is needed and valued. As each one contributes to study and prayer, the group becomes the real body of Christ.” Each unit has 10 lessons with 4 parts:

- **Prepare** – reading, studying, and reflecting on the material beforehand (so each member needs a copy of the book).
- **Share & Pray** – fostering intimacy through personal sharing & prayer.
- **Study** – exploring the Bible lesson together.
- **Discuss & Act** – digging deeper into the biblical text, discovering its meaning for today, A preparing to go out again into the world.

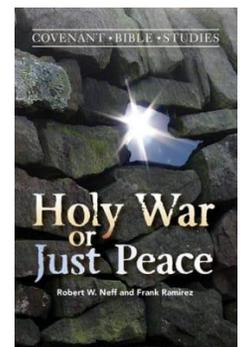
Covenant materials can be used in Sunday school classes too (There are more than 60 Covenant lesson guides). **These are ones that directly relate to peace and justice issues.**

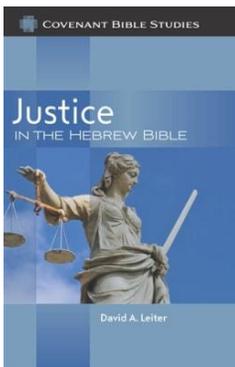
Holy War or Just Peace.

Author: Robert W. Neff and Frank Ramirez.

Product Code: 9780871781789

How should we think about acts of violence against citizens of our own country? The books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth seem to suggest there are several alternatives, which invite – demand – active interpretation and discussion. This study takes a closer look at biblical responses to the question of violence.





Justice in the Hebrew Bible.

Author: David A. Leiter.

Product Code: 9780871782748

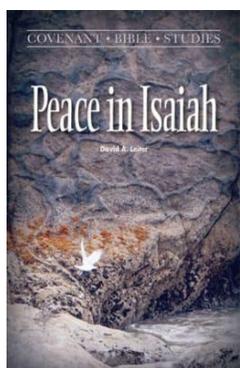
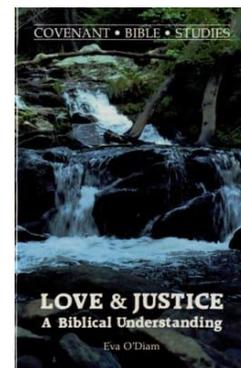
We often see justice in the Hebrew Bible as simply retaliatory, anchored in the “eye for an eye” laws and meted out by God’s vengeance. We hurry on to the New Testament and Jesus’ message of turning the other cheek, feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked. But the Hebrew Bible has a broader message of God’s justice and righteousness. This study serves as an overview by reviewing key passages from all the major sections, from historical narrative and legal texts to prophecy, proverbs, and psalms. Discovering justice as a vital theme in the Hebrew Bible draws you closer to God’s heart and moves you to action on behalf of your neighbor.

Love and Justice

Author: Eva O’Diam.

Product Code: 9780871785439

Readers are challenged to look at the biblical concept of love and justice, the criminal justice system, and their personal responses to God’s call to do justice in new ways.



Peace in Isaiah

Author: David A. Leiter

Product Code: 9780871781666

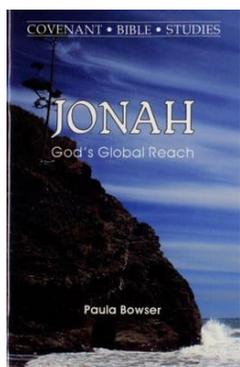
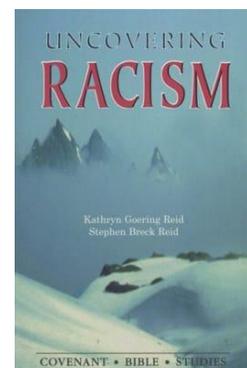
This study explores eight visions and two songs of peace from the book of Isaiah, which were written to encourage the Jewish community living in exile and persecution. Isaiah employs messages of peace to move the community forward from despair to hope, from desolation to restoration, from ruin to rebuilding. By taking these same messages seriously, perhaps we can be moved to do those things that will bring a larger sense of peace into our lives and our world. (May 2011)

Uncovering Racism

Author: Steve and Kathy Reid.

Product Code: 9780871780164

Subtle forms of racism, prejudice, and discrimination continue to cause difficulty and heartache to billions of people. This study points out inherently racist systems, structures, and attitudes both within the church and the larger society and encourages Christians to take action and avoid complacency.



Jonah: God's Global Reach

Author: Paula Bowser.

Product Code: 9780871784742

A study of God’s interactions with the prophet Jonah focuses on God’s justice and compassion and our obedience, and encourages readers to challenge their prejudices.

For more information on these resources or to purchase them go to the Brethren Press Website at <https://www.brethren.org/bp/>. The Covenant Bible Studies are listed under the ‘Bible Study’ tap. All others are listed under the ‘curriculum tap’. The CO Journal is listed under the curriculum tab under ‘other curriculum’. Sample pages from *Shine* and *Generation Why* curriculum materials can be viewed on the website. You may also get more information about all Shine Curriculum materials, supporting resources, and teacher support at <https://shinecurriculum.com>.