

Family Page

Background Reflection

We yearn for peace. Our everyday lives are busy and often chaotic. People fight about little things and big things. Tensions are high, with so much stress.

In Isaiah 11:1–9, the prophet paints a different picture. He foretells the peace and understanding that will come from a descendant of David, who will be called the Prince of Peace.

We know this Prince of Peace is Jesus, our King. Jesus taught us the way of peace as part of the New Covenant. We are humans who still carry the consequences of sin, and peace often eludes us. But that doesn't mean we can't find peace in Jesus. We can work toward peace on Earth by following his example. With small, peaceful, constructive actions, we can work toward peace in our families and communities. More and more, we can work toward peace and finally experience God's ultimate peace in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Family Activities

- Read the Featured Story on page 1106 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Isaiah 11:6–9). Invite your child to tell you what he or she remembers about working toward peace. What did your child find most interesting from this Bible story?
- Pray with your child the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi on page 1995 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Point out that God always shows us how to heal hurtful situations by responding in peace. Discuss a recent conflict in your family, and then discuss what this prayer suggests your family can do to be more peaceful at such moments.
- Watch the video "KIDS—Peacemaker" (YouTube, 2:25) together. Discuss some ways that your child can avoid conflict at home and can work towards peace.

People of Faith

Blessed James Miller (1944–1982)

James was a Christian Brother who always had a desire to teach and share the Kingdom of God with those who are poor. He taught in Nicaragua and Guatemala for many years. He enjoyed teaching industrial arts and agriculture, and was known at one school as Brother Fix-It. He was martyred by gunmen while making repairs outside his school in Guatemala.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear Jesus, we thank you for always giving us an example of peace. Help us to practice this peace in our family by remembering your love for us. Amen.

