



# 'Peace on Earth': Advent & Christmas Assembly 2025

## RE Syllabus/Collective Worship Dispositions:

*Caring for Others; Being Merciful and Forgiving; Creating Unity & Harmony;*

### Three layers covered:

(U) We all have an inbuilt longing for peace in our world and communities and for a sense of true harmonious community. We can all play our part in bringing about more peaceful co-existence and relationships with those around us and in resolving conflict in a healthy way.

(T) God the Creator wants people to reflect his love in bringing peace to our world and resolving conflict.

(FS) Christians believe that God made it possible for humans to experience peace with Him through giving the gift of Jesus, the Son. This enables and empowers them to live in peace with fellow humans regardless of background. Jesus calls his followers to be peacemakers in our world in readiness for ultimate and lasting peace that will come upon Jesus' promised Second Advent.

British Values:- Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

**Script to be used alongside accompanying Powerpoint:**

**(Slide) - Quotes. Display when students are entering the hall Display.**

**(Slide) - Title slide. (When/before teacher is handing over to you)**

**P1:** Good morning/afternoon, I'm (NAME) (**Slide**) from Birmingham City Mission, a local charity that serves people in need; we do this alongside (**Slide**) many local church partners.

[NB. introduce Local Church partner is co-delivering say: 'including (NAME THE PARTNER) from (NAME CHURCH)] who is joining me today.

[NB. If church is delivering solo they briefly mention BCM, mention the many local church partners, before mentioning their church in particular].

**(Slide)** We are in/coming into the season of Advent leading up to Christmas. Christmas is often known as the Season of 'Peace and Goodwill'. Let's see this video about how Birmingham City Mission tries to bring some peace and goodwill to others... (**Click & click to play**)

## **VIDEO 1: 'Building Peace' (BCM Care Centre & Peace Gardens) (1 min 47)**

### **\*\*Summary of video if no time to play video\*\***

[**(Slide 7)** B'ham City Mission tries to bring some peace and goodwill to others. We serve homeless people, older people, we have a food bank, resource centre & charity shop and we serve children through giving out gifts. Christmas is also a time when many people reflect on children affected by poverty & conflict around the world. It stirs that longing inside us for 'peace'.]

**P2: (Slide)** Occasionally these messages of peace have been listened to by nations, but often not. We all long for a peace that lasts for good. Let's see more in this video.... **(Click & click to play)**

## **VIDEO 2 (Peace w/ Ourselves: Military War & local violence) (3 min 30)**

### **\*\*Summary of video if no time to play video\*\***

[**(Slide - 10)** The last century was the most costly and deadly one ever known. Sadly, we haven't learnt. The world continues to be blighted by war and violence. But you sometimes hear of families, streets, communities being 'at war'.

It can be when fights break out in school...often caused by people saying or posting disrespectful, vicious things about others...

These things can spark off feelings of bitterness and anger, and can instantly ignite into verbal or physical outbursts of violence.

People can suddenly react in ways they didn't expect - pulling out a knife on someone. This can have life changing consequences for all concerned. That's why we need to think before reacting. To use strategies to....to keep calm. This will help to restore peace.]

**P2: (Slide)** Some powerful and challenging words there. Looking at the world today, we undoubtedly live in difficult times – times of uncertainty, division and fear.

**P1: (Slide)** We long not just for an absence of conflict but for a deep sense of peace and stability, both 'out there' - in the world, but also 'in here', inside.

We long for a true and lasting peace, but it can be hard to obtain. This next video will show us how Christmas relates to this theme.... **(Click & click**

**to play video)**

### **VIDEO 3 (Peace with God – Jesus' purpose in coming) (3 min 21 sec)**

(See the transcript & a summary of this video in the Script doc. The summary **slide is 14**)

**P1:** The Bible says that Jesus would make this peace with God possible through something he would one day do. When as a man he would lay down his life on a **(Slide)** cross and face the consequences of people's wrongs – He faced this so that people don't have to. If they are sorry for their wrongs and receive the risen Jesus they can be forgiven and be reconciled to Him as friends forever.

**(Slide)** The Bible says this brings a deep sense of inner peace which enables Jesus' followers to show love and forgiveness to their neighbour, even to their 'enemies'. This calm response can help to resolve situations of conflict.

**P2: (Slide)** But, what about all the conflict that's still in the world? During Advent, Christians look forward to Jesus' future Second Advent, his Second Coming to Earth. For the Bible says that the risen Jesus promised to one day return to earth - when he will right all wrongs, judge evildoers and bring peace to his people forever. There will be be no more conflict or suffering. [The Old Testament predicts this moment, saying: '*nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*']

**P1:** In anticipation of these things, Christians try to bring some peace **(Slide)** to their world now. And that's what many seek to do – people of faith and of no faith - to be 'peacemakers'.

So, let's see how we can do this now. Here are **five points we can all take away from this** – whether we all celebrate Christmas or not:....

## 1. (Slide)

First, listen to people who are different to you with openness and curiosity....Think of a viewpoint you might not like?...Think, how can you better understand that viewpoint and where it's coming from?

## 2. (Slide)

Second, how might you be able to find inner peace when feeling anxious about the present or future?

## P2.

## 3. (Slide)

Third, we might not be able to control what goes on 'out there', but we can all impact our own 'worlds' 'here' for good. Focus on things that are solid and stable, things you have some control over. Focus on doing something positive - an interest, a hobby or helping others.

#### 4. (Slide)

Fourth, think about a situation of tension or conflict in your life or community. How can you go about making or bringing peace?

#### 5. (Slide)

Lastly, i wonder if you ever find yourself quickly and easily reacting to people who might annoy or disrespect you. Can you find ways of keeping calm? If you need support with any of these things talk to a trustworthy person.

**P1: (Slide)** I hope you have found this session helpful – remember, lasting peace can be found. And let's be those bringers of 'Peace and Goodwill' this season and always.

(Display **Slide of 5 points for Reflection**)

Short reflection: 'I will leave these five points up for you to **reflect on** (think of one think you can put into practice today - pause), and I'll hand back over to your teacher now. Thank you.'

Slightly longer reflection - **hold a moment (10-15 sec) of silence for quiet reflection**, thus: 'We're now going to have a few moments of quiet reflection. To consider these points again which are on the screen, and think of how we might put them into practice in our lives starting today. Thank you.

(Optional additional extra (led by BCM person):- reflective prayer, where the school practices true 'Collective Worship' and **where you feel comfortable**): 'Those of you of faith *may* want to silently ask God to help you in doing these things. But others here may wish to reflect on what you've heard today.... Thank you.]

VIDEOS = 8 min 40.

Spoken/in-person content = 4 mins 17 / 4 mins 30.

TOTAL = 13 mins 00.