

Children's Time – God's Love Brings Peace

Materials

A large box with a lift-off lid (for each Sunday); a stuffed wolf and lamb, a picture of a tree and a picture of an ax (or toy models if possible), and two people figures.

Message

I wonder what is in this box.

(Take out the 6 items, in no particular order)

I wonder what these things have to do with each other.

(Listen to the children's wonderings, and respond with non-judging comments)

Some things go together, and some things don't. Do a wolf and a lamb go together? I don't think so. If a wolf is hungry, it will eat a lamb. Do a tree and ax go together? Well, maybe, but if a person uses the ax to cut down the tree, that's the end of it. Do two people go together? Hmm... sometimes we get along, but sometimes we fight!

(Pause. Then put the things next to each other as you mention them)

God says, "I am putting things back together, in a better way! The wolf and the lamb will be able to play together, and the lamb does not need to be afraid. The ax will only be used to trim the tree, cutting off broken or damaged branches so that it can be healthy and live longer. And even if the tree is chopped down, a new tree will grow out of the stump! And those fighting people? I will be with them, and help them get along." God says, "My love brings surprising peace between animals, people, and even in nature."

Before you go, let's bow our heads and pray. God, thank you for surprising us with your love. Thank you for showing us how to stop fighting and get along. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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