



World Day of Prayer

Prepared by the WDP Committee of Palestine

March 1st, 2024

“I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love”

Children’s Program

Theme - “I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love”

Scripture Passage - Ephesians 4:1-3

Goal – Encourage children to love and support others

Preparation

- Create a safe and comfortable space for the children.

Activity

- Start with a game that encourages community or teamwork
- Learn to sing *I Urge You* by Najwa Hashweh Azazian
- Look at the olive tree picture by Anoush vosguerichian

Ask: Do you know what kind of tree this is?

Explain: The olive tree is common in Palestine, which is the land where Jesus was born. Olive trees can live for thousands of years, so some of the olive trees in Palestine today were there when Jesus was alive!

Ask: Do you see the people holding hands? Why do you think they are holding hands? When do you hold hands with other people? How does it make you feel to hold hands with someone?

Explain: When we hold hands, we feel stronger and less alone. When we hold hands, we know that others are with us, and we don’t have to be afraid.

- Sing *I Urge You*

Ask: Do you know what it means to “bear with someone”?

Explain: To “bear with someone” means to stand with them, even when it is difficult. When we bear with each other during hard times, we feel stronger and less alone.

- Read scripture passage – Ephesians 4:1-3
- Ask children to share stories about when they felt stronger because someone else was with them
- Learning about Palestinian Children

Now, let’s listen to a song from Gaza. This song is called *Ma’qoul*, which means “possible” in Arabic. The song asks this question: Is it possible for the world to become different? Is it possible for the world to have more love? Is it possible for us to stand together, so that no-one feels alone?

Listen to *Ma'qoul*

- Art activity - Trace the childrens' hands on colored paper, and cut them out. Put each child's hands on a large picture of a tree (it could be a large print of the Anoush drawing)

Explain: We are like branches of an olive tree, rooted in the love of God. We are stronger when we stay together.

- Snack

Explain: Now, we are going to eat together. We will have bread dipped in olive oil. Olive oil comes from the olive tree, which we talked about today. Before we eat, let's all hold hands and say a prayer.

God, thank you for bringing us all together.

Thank you for the Palestinians who have shared this message with us.

Help us to stay together, so that all people feel loved and supported.

Amen.

Additional Suggestions:

- Make a Tik Tok video during the implementation of the artwork.
- Use the hashtag #WDPwebear; #ChildrenOfGod
- Learn the Arabic word for peace - Salaam

Resources:

Artwork by Anoush vosguerichian – *Olive Tree*. Created originally for the 2024 program prepared by WDP Palestine. Used by permission.

Song of Najwa Hashweh Azazian - *I Urge You*. Based on Ephesians 4:1-3, Music by Najwa Hashweh Azazian. Composed originally for the 2024 program prepared by WDP Palestine. Used by permission.

Song from Gaza - *Ma'qoul*. <https://youtu.be/Uct485Bt9Q0>. © ESNMCM 2021, Used by permission

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