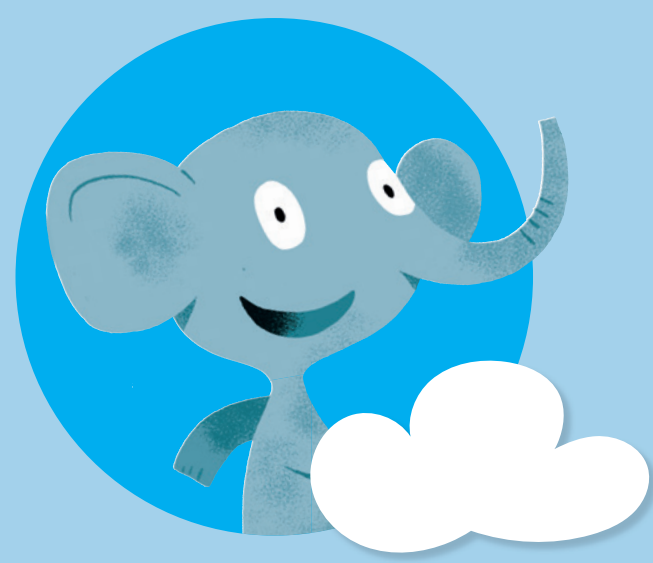


**PEACE**

**MY PEACE  
I GIVE TO YOU.**

JOHN 14:27



**IDEAS FOR  
CHILDREN'S GROUPS**



Evangelical Mission  
in Solidarity

# CONTENTS



HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET .....	PAGE 3
INTRODUCTION .....	PAGE 4
THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION .....	PAGE 5
<b>IDEAS AND MODULES FOR CHILDREN'S GROUPS</b>	
WELCOME .....	PAGE 6
WHAT DOES PEACE MEAN? .....	PAGE 6
CHILDREN AND PEACE IN SOUTH KOREA .....	PAGE 8
CHILDREN AND PRESSURE TO PERFORM .....	PAGE 9
STORY TO READ ALOUD .....	PAGE 10
MAKE YOUR OWN PEACE DOVE .....	PAGE 13
GALLERY WALK .....	PAGE 13
A PRAYER FOR PEACE FROM LEBANON .....	PAGE 14
NON-COMPETITIVE GAME FROM CAMEROON .....	PAGE 14
SONGS .....	PAGE 15
CLOSING BLESSING .....	PAGE 15
<b>COPYRIGHT INFORMATION .....</b>	
CONTACT .....	PAGE 16



YOU + ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD is an educational programme for Children's Services and in primary school. Children get to know each other worldwide: on an equal footing, ecumenically and open to commonalities and differences.

More information at [www.ems-friends.org/en](http://www.ems-friends.org/en)

## A NOTE REGARDING THE CORONA PANDEMIC:

This booklet was created during the Corona Pandemic. If it is not yet possible to meet without corona safety measures when you wish to use ideas from the booklet, please adapt the different modules to your circumstances.

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

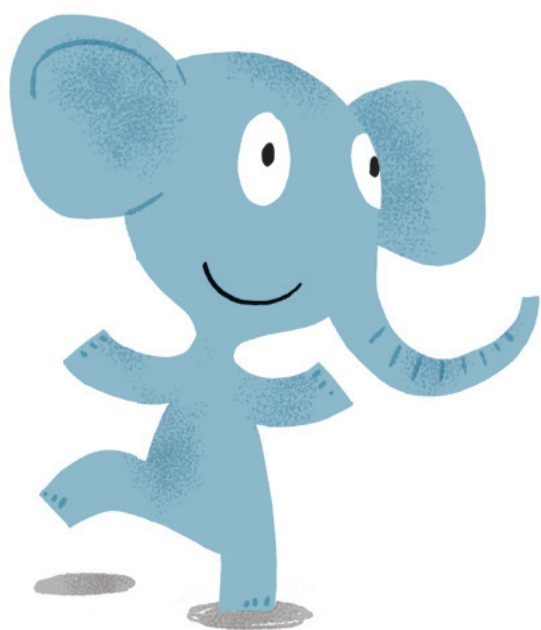
Peace is a topic that concerns us all, especially children around the world. We can exchange ideas with children in Sunday School or in the school assembly and bring peace to life.

With them we want to find answers to the following questions: What actually is peace? What does peace mean for each of us personally? What does peace mean for children in different countries of this world? And what does the Bible actually say about peace?

This booklet is designed to give ideas about how to approach the topic of peace in your children's group. We have focused on children and peace in South Korea and want to find out what children there think about peace. The Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS) has two member churches in South Korea, the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). There is a close and active exchange between us.

Korea is a divided country. There is a great longing for unity and peace between South Korea and North Korea. We asked South Korean children what is important to them. Their answer is clear: for many children peace means experiencing inner peace and having less pressure in their everyday life. That's why in this booklet you will find statements from children from South Korea, a non-competitive game and a matching story to read aloud. Isn't pressure to perform in school, in sports and in leisure time something that affects children all over the world? That is why we open the door to let children from all over the world have their say.

The theological reflection from South Korea is meant as an introduction to the topic. You can then use the modules that follow for your group work. There is a game from Cameroon, a craft activity, a prayer from Lebanon and a story to read aloud about our mascots: the elephant Emso and the little bird Pipit. You can choose what is appropriate for your group.



### THE FRIENDS EMSO AND PIPIT

The elephant Emso and the little bird Pipit accompany children worldwide on their learning journey. They are the mascots of the Children's Programme and can be used, as stick figures when reading the story, for example.

You can download the templates here:  
[www.ems-friends.org/en](http://www.ems-friends.org/en)

INFO



## INTRODUCTION



### DEAR PEACEMAKERS,

In our house there is a bowl with stones from all over the world that have accumulated over the years. There is a piece of chalk rock from the south of France that I brought back from a student exchange, a pebble from our honeymoon and some fool's gold from a mountain hike in the Alps. In the middle of it all lies a small piece of inconspicuous concrete, painted green on one side. It is a piece of the Berlin Wall that a friend from the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) brought me back from Berlin in 1989. He had lived directly behind the inner-German border for more than 30 years and had always assumed that he would not be able to cross to the other side of the border until he retired at the earliest. We met through the partnership work of our church, with which the Protestant Church in Germany tried to maintain and foster personal relationships despite the separation of the two states. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he came to visit us in Stuttgart and brought with him as a gift a piece of this wall which had divided the people of Germany for decades and had become a symbol of the "Cold War".

I grew up during the time of the peace movement and learnt that it is possible to overcome war and violence by peaceful means. "We had a plan for everything, we were prepared for everything", a member of the SED Central Committee later explained the end of the GDR, "except for candles and prayers." In my first weeks as the new General Secretary of the EMS, I 'visited' and got to know many of our member churches and associated mission societies in virtual meetings. In those meetings, our brothers and sisters within the EMS often talked about walls that are a hindrance to peace in their contexts. That is not only true for South Korea where people still hope for unification and peace with North Korea, but also in other countries, where prejudices between religions and differences in social status grow like walls that threaten peaceful coexistence.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you," is what Jesus says to his disciples. And he continues: "Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." That's what this peace booklet for our children's work is all about. We want to pass on courage and hope to the children that are entrusted to us: the confidence that the world does not have to remain as it is now, but that we can change it in Jesus' spirit. As Christians, we don't need to resign ourselves to the realities of the world, but should be peacemakers – thinking especially of our children. The small fragment of the Berlin Wall reminds us that everything is possible.

I hope you enjoy working with the peace booklet.

*Rev. Dr Dieter Heidtmann*  
*General Secretary of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS)*



## THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

### JESUS WHO COMES IN PEACE

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours! Luke 2:14*

The bible tells us the story of the birth of Jesus, born in a manger in a small and shabby stable in Bethlehem. Jesus came to this earth in peace. The peace of Jesus is in absolute contrast to the Roman Empire of that time, which asserted itself through power and oppression. Jesus, however, came to this earth to set the world free from all its constraints and burdens. Jesus' peace was not only for Rome and Judea, but went beyond the borders of Galilee, Samaria and Israel and encompassed the whole earth.

Jesus' peace is like a tapestry woven with liberation, hospitality, respect and care instead of oppression, hostility, ignorance and loneliness.

### JESUS' LAST REQUEST: PEACE

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. John 14:27*

Peace was a matter of the heart for Jesus. He proclaimed the message of peace from his birth to his death. His last words, addressed to his disciples, were also about peace. The peace that Jesus gives is a different peace from the one the world can give. Jesus' peace is not acquired through wealth, honour, possessions, success, money or knowledge. Only those who truly trust and follow Jesus can understand and grasp his peace. Trust cannot exist with fear or worries; the more we trust in Jesus, the deeper peace we will find. When we believe and trust in Jesus, we will experience the mystery of the meaning of true peace.

### THE PEACE OF THE RESURRECTED JESUS

After Jesus' resurrection, he met his disciples and said, "Peace be with you!" For after Jesus' death they were left in fear. The resurrected Jesus showed them his scars and the holes in his hands to demonstrate to them that he is the Lord – and through this assurance they felt peace.

### JESUS' PEACE RECONCILES US

We live in a world where there is war every day. I am Korean and live in a divided country and right now the whole world is at war with COVID-19. We must recognise that the whole world is interconnected and that the pain of one region can easily affect another region.

Jesus' peace is opposed to war, violence and oppression. He rejects discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, social status, physical ability, knowledge, economic power, and religion. Christians want Jesus' vision of peace to be visible on this earth.

### INNER PEACE

Inner peace can be achieved by loving and trusting Jesus. Peace in the world, peace in society and between each other are important, but this external peace does not automatically bring inner peace. It is important to strive to remain at peace by remembering and reflecting on Jesus' messages about love and peace. Let us read the Bible and Jesus' words about peace more often and practice silence and prayer in our daily lives. The rituals of peace we create and practice in our lives will help us to cultivate and remain in a state of peace.

*Rev. Dr Hyun Sun Oh, South Korea*



### WELCOME

We can welcome the children with the word "Shalom". It's good to all hold hands or wave to each other and explain what the word means to us.

Shalom is the Hebrew word for peace and is rich in meaning. For example, shalom means not only the absence of war, but also universal well-being. It also means that people and nature are doing well, that everyone feels safe, and that the weak find support.

### WHAT DOES PEACE MEAN?

Children experience peace in their everyday lives and will have many ideas about what they associate with peace.

What is peace?

What does peace mean to you?

children's answers

It is a good idea to hear the children's answers in the group and discuss them. Afterwards, the quotes from children worldwide can be read aloud and the pictures can be shown.

The children can also ask their parents and grandparents at home what peace means to them and whether they can think of an experience when peace became important.





For me, peace means  
spending time with my friends.  
It is a pleasure for  
me to play with them.



**ASHLEIGH FROM SOUTH AFRICA**

There is peace in my country,  
however, there are conflicts based on  
religion. For me personally,  
peace means not having to worry  
about tests.



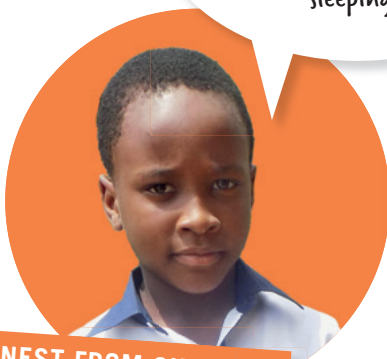
**EVELYN FROM INDIA**

Peace means we  
can live and work together  
harmoniously. There is peace where I am  
from, even though we live in a village  
with different religions.



**DADO FROM INDONESIA**

Peace is when  
there is no noise in the  
area and nobody is  
disturbing when I am  
sleeping.



**ERNEST FROM GHANA**

**FRIEDA FROM GERMANY**

Frieda has drawn a picture on  
"peace". When the parents chose the  
name Frieda, they also thought  
about peace: the German word for  
peace is "Frieden".



## CHILDREN AND PEACE IN SOUTH KOREA



Peace is sometimes described as the absence of war and dictators. For me, peace is happiness. Peace is laughing with my family while we watch TV at home. Peace is when my parents have ordered me a present and I'm waiting for the package to arrive.

Peace is also when I'm playing and talking with my friends at church. Peace is playing with my friends at school. Peace will be maintained if my teacher doesn't get mad at me for not doing my homework!



SAERON FROM SOUTH KOREA

Peace is helping and loving each other.



WOO HYEONG FROM SOUTH KOREA



In the blog of the Children's Programme [www.ems-friends.org/en](http://www.ems-friends.org/en) there is a detailed article about the peace doves from South Korea.

Woo Hyeong's Sunday School group made peace doves. In Woo Hyeong's dove we read: God, please give South and North Korea unity and freedom. The way reunification happened peacefully in Germany.





Saeron shares: "My school is full of noise and energy. During lunch you can talk to other people, and we play board games during breaks. My favourite subjects are Art and P.E.. But I really dislike Maths. The teacher gives us a maths test for homework every day, and I hate it. If we don't do it we get into trouble. That maths homework is the thing I struggle with the most. Also, if we don't do our spelling test homework, we have to stay at school to finish it. It's such a hassle."



Saeron's family likes to travel and go camping. They often go hiking in the mountains or swimming at the beach. Saeron loves it when it snows and everyone is out in the snow together.



Saeron spends the most time with her family. Her little sister loves to sing and dance and Saeron joins in.

## STATEMENT: CHILDREN AND PRESSURE TO PERFORM



Sohyun Nam from the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea is liaison officer of the EMS in South Korea. She gives us an insight into how she views the issue of peace and pressure to perform.

### What does peace mean to children in South Korea?

For children, peace means love, freedom and respect. Peace for a child begins when they are loved by their family, friends, and the people who surround them. When children communicate freely with adults and have fun and play with their families and friends, they can experience peace.

### In what areas of life do children experience pressure to perform?

The regular school curriculum in Korea focuses on entering universities. Therefore, children in Korea are under pressure to study from an early age. Not only at school, but also at home and at church, children worry about adults evaluating them according to their academic performance.

### How does the inner peace of children relate to the pressure to perform in society?

The pressure to study is a hindrance to children's inner peace in Korea. Children are being forced to compete with their friends. To experience inner peace, children should cooperate with friends rather than compete. This is because peace is not something to enjoy alone, but to achieve together.

## STORY TO READ ALOUD

### STORY TO READ ALOUD

#### LET'S PLAY TOGETHER

Emso and Pipit are best friends. They have known each other for quite a while and they like each other very much. They share and enjoy many things together – just like friends do.

Who are your  
friends?

children's  
answers

Emso and Pipit love to travel around the world together to get to know girls and boys all over the world. They are interested in how children live on this earth, what they eat, what they play, what they are worried about, what they think about God. Maybe Emso and Pipit will travel to you soon? But stop: I'm telling you about Emso and Pipit here... *Show Emso and Pipit.*

Who are these two?

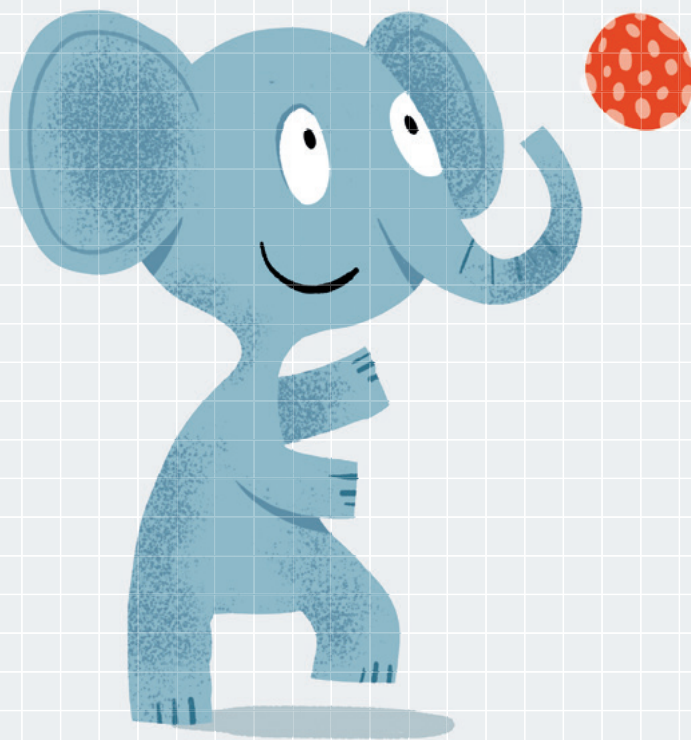
Do you already  
know them?

children's  
answers

Let me introduce you. With us today are: Emso, the elephant and Pipit, the little bird. Emso is – as you can all see – an ... (elephant). He is down-to-earth and quiet. He likes to eat green leaves from the trees and when it is hot, he splashes himself with his trunk. When the sun shines strongly, he gives shade to his friend Pipit with his big ears.

Pipit is a small, curious bird. By the way, Pipit is an Indonesian name and means "sparrow". Pipit is nimble and likes to fly around. She has probably already flown past you.

Today Pipit and Emso wake up happily. The sun is shining and a new day lies ahead of them. Both are excited to see what will happen to them today. "Good morning, Emso! It's good to see you. Would you like to play something with me?" asks Pipit. "Good morning, dear Pipit. Oh yes, that sounds very good. That's funny because I was about to ask you the same thing. How nice that as friends we often think alike. I brought my new ball. How about a game of long throw? Whoever throws the furthest wins. All right?"



"Yes, good. I'm curious about your new ball," Pipit answers excitedly, she picks up the ball and throws it as far as she can with her little wings. Phew! Pipit is out of breath but at the same time she is very happy that she managed to throw the ball so well. Emso puts a small stone on the ground where the ball landed so that they can remember the spot. Now it is Emso's turn. He takes the ball with his long trunk, strikes out and throws it forward with all his strength. Pipit and Emso look after the ball. It flies a long way. Far beyond the stone. Emso cheers and jumps into the air. A loud "Töröööh" comes from his trunk. "I won," he shouts and dances with joy. He doesn't notice how Pipit's face becomes sadder and sadder. She thinks to herself, "Oh, that's so mean. It's obvious that big Emso with the long throw wins, he has much more strength and a big, strong trunk."

Pipit thinks for a moment and then suggests the following:

"Emso, I don't feel like playing ball anymore. I have another idea: let's solve some maths problems. Are you good at multiplication tables?" Still really happy about winning and sure that he will also win this game, Emso replies: "Well of course, let's get started!"

"All right," says Pipit, "what is  $3 \times 4$ ?" Emso thinks for some time. Pipit counts the seconds. After ten seconds Emso calls out confidently: "Twelve! Now you: what is  $3 \times 12$ ?" Pipit doesn't have to think for long and squeals immediately: "36. Every child knows that! Emso, what is  $8 \times 6$ ?" Again, Emso has to think for a while. He realises himself that he is slower at solving math problems than Pipit and that he is not so good at this game. Frustrated, he blurts out: "46?" "Haha," Pipit laughs unkindly, "that's wrong.  $8 \times 6$  is 48. That's logical!" Now Emso is no longer in the mood for this game and stomps off, cross and unhappy. Pipit stays behind wondering about it.

A few hours later the two meet again and talk about what happened in the morning. "Hello Pipit," says Emso, "nice to see you again. Somehow things went badly this morning. We're friends, aren't we, and we want to have fun together?"

"Yes," Pipit agrees, "I feel the same way. At first I was sad that I couldn't throw the ball as far as you. That's why I suggested a game to you where I knew I would win. But it's not good if the loser is sad and only the winner is happy."

They both think about this. It is quiet for a while.

Has this sort of thing  
ever happened to you?

How did you feel?

What could be  
the way round it?

How could the two of them  
live in peace again?

children's  
answers



Then Emso suggests: "Pipit, come on, let's not be against each other anymore!" Pipit chirps in relief, "Yes, Emso, you are my friend, and friends like each other for who they are and are happy when the other person does something well or even better." "You are right, Pipit. We are each good at different things and so we also help each other. You can calculate quickly, and I am happy for you. I have a long trunk and can throw a long way. I can also help you if you want to get a cup from the top of the cupboard and are too small for it. Together we are strong!", Emso adds.

Both are now incredibly relieved and hug each other. How good it feels to live in peace again. During the hug, both realise that they also like the other just the way he or she is, even if he or she can do some things better or worse.

"It's a big load off my mind," Pipit chirps. "I'm glad we talked about it. Let's play something instead that we can both enjoy equally and no one has to be sad." "That's a good idea, dear Pipit," Emso rejoices.

Emso takes his new ball and gently throws it to Pipit and asks, "Pipit, what colour is your favourite?" While Pipit catches the ball, she peeps with a laugh, "Well, purple, you know that. And what is your favourite

colour, Emso?" Pipit throws the ball back to him and he replies, "Orange. And what is your favourite food, Pipit?" As Pipit catches the ball, she twitters "maize kernels, and what do you like to eat?" Catching it, Emso growls, "Leaves from the trees – preferably the ones at the top." They both laugh. So Emso and Pipit play for some more time, throwing the ball back and forth and answering all sorts of questions.

Emso and Pipit get to know each other even better that day and are happy that they have found a game that they both enjoy.

How did Emso and Pipit find peace?

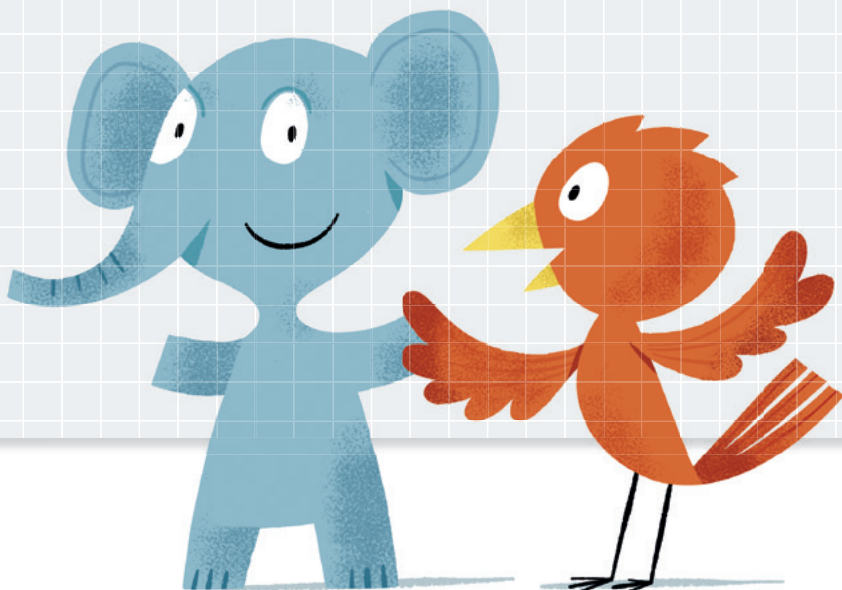
How can you end quarrels?

children's answers

For example ...  
... by talking to each other ...

... by listening,  
getting to know the other person ...

... by asking:  
What did you mean by that?





## CRAFTING PEACE DOVES

Here are picture instructions on how to make peace doves with your group.

Visit [www.ekd.de/faltanleitung-friedenstaube-49832.htm](http://www.ekd.de/faltanleitung-friedenstaube-49832.htm) for a video and instructions.

Have fun with the handicraft!



### Gallery Walk

The children paint pictures of peace and hang them up as a small exhibition.

Why don't you take a picture?

Send it to the EMS: [info@ems-friends.org](mailto:info@ems-friends.org)



## PRAYER FOR PEACE FROM LEBANON

Lord God,

We praise you because you are a God who loves peace.

We thank you that you are with us whenever we are troubled.

We pray for those who are worried and anxious that you calm their hearts.

We pray for our families and those with whom we live that you grant our homes peace.

We pray for our neighbourhoods and countries so that people can come together in joy again.

We pray for children who live in countries where there is war and division

that you keep them safe and give them a good life.

We pray for our planet and for all the animals in it, may we all live together

in harmony as you wish for us.

Amen.

Rev. Dr Rima Nasrallah van Saane



## NON-COMPETITIVE GAME

### CLAP BALL

Clap ball is a game from Cameroon that children there and around the world love to play. You need a small ball.

The children form two groups of equal size. The game can be played on a larger court. The playing area is divided with a line in the middle.

Both groups of children line up in their half about two meters from the line in the middle. One child starts and throws the ball to a girl or boy from the other group. As he/she throws, all clap their hands once. When the ball is caught, all stamp the feet. Then the ball is thrown back and all players stamp and clap. It goes on and on like this, getting faster and faster.

The line must not be crossed. If at any time the ball is not caught, it is simply thrown again by the same child. No one loses or wins in this game. It is only played for the joy of being together.

*Idea: UNICEF –  
Spiele rund um die Welt.  
2009. Page 6.*





## SONGS

### PEACE LIKE A RIVER

(trad., Henry O. Millsby)

Please find more songs on the theme of peace for your children's group.



## CLOSING BLESSING

The children stand in a circle and hold hands or form their hands as a bowl to receive the blessing. Together they say the Priestly blessing. Then at "Amen" the hands are squeezed tightly again or the children twinkle with their eyes.

The Priestly blessing is the oldest blessing in the Bible. It is still spoken today in Jewish and Christian services. According to Numbers, God communicated it to Moses and Aaron himself:

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.  
Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26



## CONTACT

Evangelical Mission in Solidarity  
YOU + ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD  
Vogelsangstr. 62  
70197 Stuttgart, Germany

+49 (0) 711 / 636 78 44  
info@ems-friends.org  
www.ems-friends.org/en

سلام

PERDA-  
MAIAN

평화

平和

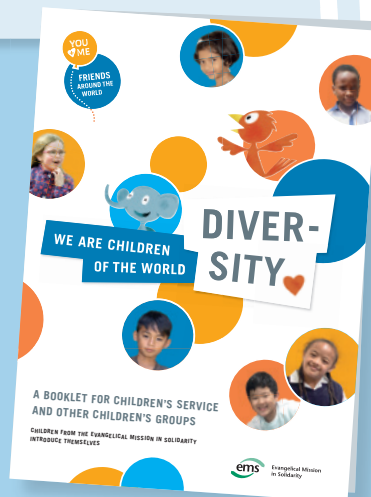
PEACE

FRIEDEN

If you want to get further into global learning, we recommend our booklet "DIVERSITY: We are children of the world". The booklet takes children's groups on a journey around the world. On the carefully designed pages, six children from the EMS introduce themselves: a child from India, Indonesia, South Africa, South Korea, Ghana and Germany. They speak authentically about their concerns, their joys and worries.

The DIVERSITY booklet is available in German, English, Indonesian and Korean.

You can order it free of charge at [info@ems-friends.org](mailto:info@ems-friends.org) or download it here: [www.ems-friends.org/en](http://www.ems-friends.org/en)



## Copyright information

**Published by** Evangelical Mission in Solidarity  
Vogelsangstraße 62, 70197 Stuttgart, Germany  
**Ideas and edition** Anna Kallenberger, Dr Hyun Sun Oh, Annette Schumm // **Editing support** Dr Hyun Sun Oh, Sohyun Nam, Dr Rima Nasrallah van Saane, Dr Dieter Heidtmann // **Responsible in terms of press law** Dr Dieter Heidtmann // **Bible quotations** New Revised Standard Version Bible // **Game** UNICEF – Spiele rund um die Welt. 2009 // **Photos** (EMS holds rights) p.4/5 EMS, T. Lohnes / p.7 E. Kwame Tettey, S. Spies, K. James Cecil Victor, Mega Sambo, T. Lohnes / p.8/9 Hak Joo Lee, Sung Gyun Shin, S. Nam / p.13 A. Schumm // **Illustrations** Gert Albrecht // **Design** büro für visuelles, Stuttgart // **Translation** Regine Nagel, Anna Kallenberger, Annette Schumm // 2021

