

Remembrance Day



Do you know what this flower is called?

It is a poppy.

The poppy serves as a reminder that this week we will celebrate a very important holiday. How many of you know what holiday we will celebrate? We will celebrate Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day is a day on which we honor the men and women who have served in the military and who have fought to defend our freedom.

The poppy was chosen as a symbol for Remembrance Day because it reminds us of a place called **Flanders Fields** where many soldiers from the First World War are buried. The poppies grow wild there between all the crosses that mark their place.

We enjoy a lot of freedom. We are free to come to church and worship, we are free to choose what we want to be when we grow up, we are free to choose where we want to live, we are free to choose most of the things that affect our daily lives. This might come as a surprise to some of you -- *but did you know that freedom isn't free?*

Someone had to pay the price for us to have the freedom that we enjoy. There are men and women right here in this room this morning who have helped to pay that price. Some have served in the military and many of them have fought in wars. There are probably some people here this morning who had loved ones who gave their lives fighting for our freedom. These are the ones that we honor as we celebrate Remembrance Day.

We have a lot of freedom, but the greatest freedom that we have is the freedom that we have in Christ Jesus. The Bible teaches that the penalty for sin is death, but you and I have been set free from this penalty. We have been set free because Jesus paid the

penalty. The Bible tells us that Jesus died to set us free from the penalty of sin. Instead of death, we have been given eternal life. This freedom wasn't free, Jesus paid the price.

From James 4: 1, 6-7

What causes wars and fighting among you?

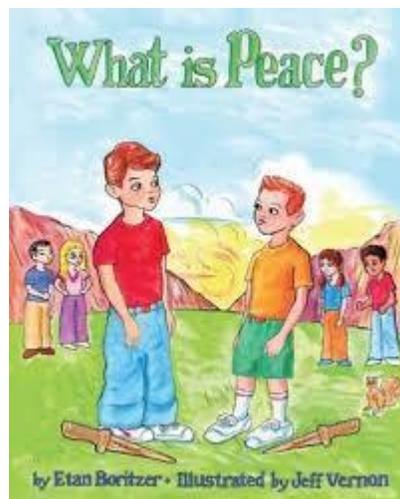
Is it not your selfishness at war inside your hearts? Greed, pride, envy etc.

But God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble.

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

God's peace gift to us is Jesus. He is God's gift to all who will receive Him. Jesus makes peace with God for us and as we learn how to pass this gift on, we become peacemakers and peace-givers too. He empowers us to be peace-bringers.

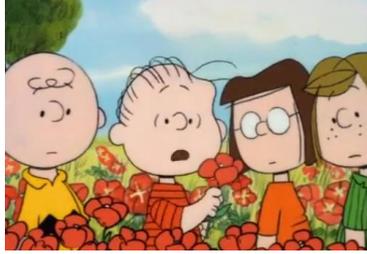


[What is Peace - by Etan Boritzer](#)

Here is a book, that helps discuss Peace.

The book helps children to understand that problems can be resolved in nonviolent ways, and that violence is not an acceptable way to resolve conflicts.

Peace begins within ourselves, that peace, and the happiness it gives, doesn't depend on having things.



[In Flanders Fields - Charlie Brown](#)

Next, we have a quick video on Flanders Field with the cast of Charlie Brown.



[Tales of Animals in War](#)

Finally – Some amazing stories told by some awesome animals! There are also some worksheets at the end for you to complete with your family.

In Flanders Fields

John McCrae, 1872 - 1918

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



**Dear Father, thank you for the freedom that we enjoy.
We are thankful for those who paid the price for that freedom,
but even more important,
we thank you for the freedom we have –
because Jesus was willing to pay the penalty for our sin.
Amen.**

This week as we celebrate Remembrance Day, let us remember to stop and thank God for those who have paid the price for our freedom. Let us also remember to thank God for Jesus, who has set us free from the penalty for sin, because he was willing to pay the price.

Krystal Manuel – RUC Children’s Ministry Coordinator

