

THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Unit Theme: Welcoming the Light of God

Today's Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4 – The Light of Peace

Key Verse: “The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.”
Malachi 3:1b

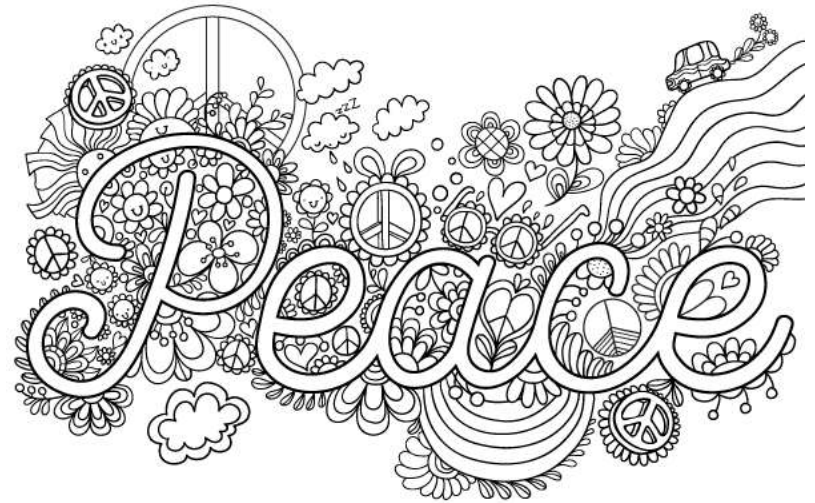
Questions to go deeper:

- Malachi is the very last book in the Hebrew Scriptures and one which we seldom read in church, but it was chosen for this Sunday for a reason. What do you think that reason might be?
- Again, the word “peace” does not appear in this text. Is it present in the imagery of the text? What is the imagery?
- It might help to know that Judah (the northern kingdom of the Israelites) and Jerusalem (the capital city) were almost constantly threatened by war or fighting wars or internal intrigue. Knowing this, read again verses 3 & 4. What might be the connection between “refining and purifying” and longed for peace?

Activity possibilities:

- Coloring picture on reverse side: Peace! You can find a full-size version at <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/325455510557755628/?lp=true>
- The Advent season at our church this year is a time for exploring how God's light is reflected through you to the world. If you haven't already, take one of the Reverse Advent Baskets from up front and follow the directions to participate in this unique way of giving hope to folks in need.

- If you haven't already, check out this fun You Tube video about Advent!! You'll love it:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=So2KOlw7dIA>



✧ ***Continue working on an Advent prayer chain*** to keep track of all the days of the Advent season! First, get some plain white paper. Cut it into 25 strips with each about one inch wide. Then, find a place to keep it where you can see it each day, along with some markers, crayons or colored pencils. As we move into the second week of Advent, take one strip of paper and write the #2 on it. Write a one or two word description of a situation where peace is needed next to #2 and then, decorate the other side with multi-colored peace symbols. Loop it through the last loop from last week (it should be the 8th loop in your chain) Continue adding a loop a day, with a different prayer for peace. Watch for instructions for next week next Sunday!

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always available to answer your questions anytime!