



THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Unit Theme: What is God asking of us in this moment?

Lesson connected to Sunday, October 6, 2019

Today's Scripture: Numbers 6:22-27

Key Verse: "... the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."
Numbers 6:26

Contexts of the Scripture:

- Look up Numbers in the Table of Contents of your bible. Where is it found?
- Numbers is part of the Torah, or Pentateuch, the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures. These five books form the foundation of the Hebrew faith up through the time of the escape from Egypt and its aftermath.
- Numbers traces the journey of the Israelites from their encampment in the wilderness at Sinai through their 40 years of wandering in the desert wilderness.
- The title "Numbers" gives the impression that the book is about counting things, but it is really a collection of stories about the people and their adventures during their years of wandering. It contains some of the most well-known passages from the Hebrew Scriptures, including today's text known as the "priestly benediction."

Questions to go deeper:

- Read the text carefully. Who is speaking and to whom?
- What is the specific instruction given? Why do you suppose this is?
- Who came up with the words of the blessing which appears in verses 24-26? What is unusual about this?
- We repeat this blessing every Communion Sunday as our benediction at the end of the service. How will you experience this benediction differently now that you know more about it? Or, does this not change anything for you? If this is the case why do you think that is?

Activity possibilities:

- **Family activities:**
 - Add "priestly blessing" to your bible timeline. See notes above to figure out where it would go. Hint: It would come after the Israelites leave Egypt but before they settle in the Promised Land.
 - Rev. Ruth chose this text for this specific Sunday as we celebrate two important occasions in the life of our church – World Communion Sunday and the Dedication of our Peace Pole in the upper pollinator gardens. Why do you think she made this choice? Whether you are at worship on Oct. 6 or not, make a point of stopping by the church to visit the Peace Pole. Study it carefully. How many languages do you find? Why do you think

the Peace Pole is important for us to have at the church? What other ways might we make use of it?

- **Younger children activities:**

- Enjoy this coloring page: You can photocopy this page, then enlarge it, cut it out and color it!



- **Older children and youth activities:**

- If you want to see other Peace Pole Dedication ceremonies, just go to www.youtube.com and type in “peace pole dedication” and a LOT will come up. Scroll through and see what they’re like. How are they like ours? How are they different?
- Make a Peace Pole for yourself. You can make a simple one using popsicle sticks. Write “May Peace Prevail on Earth” on both sides in bright colors. Incorporate decorations as space allows. You can make a bigger one out of paper by taking a sheet of plain white paper, as stiff as you can find. Fold into four columns. Write “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in the center of all four panels, in more than one language if possible! Then decorate around the words on each panel. When you’ve finished that, fold the four panels so that the corners are sharp and the two ends come together. Tape those ends together and your pole is complete. You can also put a slender vase or glass in the center before you tape it and then place some pretty dried wildflowers in the vase. Place someplace where you will see it every day as a reminder to pray for peace!

Going Deeper:

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Catch up with her through the church or come to the Savoy Bookstore and Café any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.