

Stepping into the Picture

Lesson Plan

From the *Peaceable Kingdom*, 2003, published by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting p. 27-29. Downloadable at <http://www.pym.org/publications/pym-curricula/the-peaceable-kingdom/>



For Ages 11-14

Lesson 1: 45 minutes

Materials

Bible, bookmarked at Isaiah 11

Copy of Peaceable Kingdom painting by Edward Hicks

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Instructions:

1. Introduce the lesson about the Peaceable Kingdom by reading from Isaiah 11:6-10 and looking closely at the picture(s) of the *Peaceable Kingdom* (there are several versions) by Elias Hicks. Give a brief history of how and why the picture was created by Hicks. Show versions of the picture through printing or projecting them for the group.
2. Ask students to describe what they see. What animals, what humans? Who is next to whom? How do you think the figures feel? Is anyone in charge? Are the figures in the picture the correct size? Why do you think the artist did this?
3. Ask students to pick an animal or character in the picture, which they would like to portray. Then for a few minutes sit in silence and visualize how their character would feel. Then ask the class to arrange themselves in a tableau that is like the Hick's picture. Once they are arranged (take a picture if it seems right) and/or ask each to say how they feel? Are they afraid, at peace, confused?
4. Ask students to step out of the tableau and return to their seats. Ask what Hick's was trying to convey with his picture. How did the role you played in the picture contribute to peace? Why?

Lesson II: (hopefully the following week)

Materials

Copy of Peaceable Kingdom painting by Edward Hicks

Newsprint, flip char or white board

Markers

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Instructions:

1. Review the characters or figures (list on newsprint) and setting for the *Peaceable Kingdom* by Elias Hicks.
2. Think of a conflict your community, America, or in the world. Who are the main characters in that conflict? List them on newsprint. Which character would you like to be in the tableau? Assign characters/roles. Ask students to center a moment on the role they will be playing the peaceful tableau. Then without talking arrange themselves in the picture to create the modern *Peaceable Kingdom*.
3. Then turn to the person beside you and have a conversation about the situation.
4. Return to seats and say what their person or animal did to resolve the conflict.

Submitted by Marty Smith