



**Mennonite  
Church  
Canada**

Resource Centre

## Sharing Peace with Simon?

### Children's Story

Year B, Easter 2

Title: Sharing Peace with Simon?  
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Church, Laird, SK  
Text: John 20: 19-31  
Theme: Jesus sends us to share this  
peace with others.

#### Gathering Activity:

Invite and welcome the children to this part of the worship service where we worship in child-like ways. Teach and practice the greeting, "Peace be with you." Tell them this is the greeting Jesus used when he met his disciples after God made him alive again. Open your Bible to John 20 and show the words "peace be with you" in verses 19 and 21. Encourage them to settle into a comfortable position and to think about breathing in the peace that Jesus gives. Take a few breaths to become peaceful or peace-filled yourself. Express how wonderful it is to have this peace, and that Jesus' friends greet and share this peace with others, just like Jesus did. Sometimes sharing peace with others isn't easy, but it is what Jesus wants us to do, and helps us do. Today's story is about a boy who learned to share that peace with someone he didn't like.

#### Story:

Simon liked school, but Simon wasn't sure if he liked everybody at school. There was a boy in his class named Luke. Luke

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wasn't mean. Luke wasn't a bully, but Luke was not Simon's friend and Simon didn't know why. Luke would do things like yell out at recess from the monkey bars, "Simon says! Simon says!" He didn't say it like he wanted to be awful, but some days he said it a lot. "Simon says! Simon says!" It made Simon cringe. Luke never chose Simon as a reading buddy in school, and it seemed that Luke was always on the opposite team when they played soccer in gym class. One time while Luke was talking to some of the other boys at lunch, Luke turned his back ever so slightly so that Simon could not join the circle of friends. Simon was sure that Luke didn't like him and Simon didn't know why. Simon tried not to worry about it, and played with his own friends instead.

Simon also loved soccer and that was an even bigger problem for Simon. On Monday, his coach for his after-school team had told the boys that they wouldn't be able to play any games unless they found one or two more players. The only boys in Simon's age group who didn't play soccer were Luke, who never played on any teams outside of school, and Greg, who always went to visit his dad on the weekends. Simon hoped somebody new would move to town.

### **Wondering Questions:**

- I wonder why Luke would yell, "Simon says!"
- I wonder what Simon could do to be friends with Luke.
- I wonder what Simon and his team could do to get enough players on their soccer team.

Here is what happened:

Simon got some of his friends to come with him to talk to Luke one recess. By the time they got close to the monkey bars, Luke had quit saying "Simon says!" and just stared with a shy smile. Simon asked Luke if he would join the soccer team. Luke said that he would love to be on the team but he wasn't allowed because his parents couldn't drive him to any games. Simon's mom and dad agreed to pick up Luke for every game. Luke and Simon spent a lot of time together in the van. They talked, they laughed, they acted out scenes from their favourite Star Wars movies, and they found out that they could be quite good friends. Now Luke and Simon are often reading buddies and partners in gym class. Luke still calls out at recess, "Simon says!" but Simon just laughs and yells back "Yes, Luke Skywalker!"

### **Prayer:**

Thank you for stories with happy endings and that Simon learned to share peace with Luke and become friends. Please help us share your peace and be friendly to people in our church and neighbourhoods, even when we're not sure we like them. Amen.