

Welcome to Lab Book!

I'm Pax the Porcupine, and I'll be spending time with you as we experiment with peacemaking during Peace Lab. My name is really special! Pax is the word for "peace" in Latin!



Is it kind of strange that a porcupine would be named Pax? With all the quills I have, I'm not soft and cuddly. Most of the time I keep my quills down, but when someone makes me feel afraid, I stick the quills up. Sometimes the other guy gets a lot of quills and gets hurt.

I don't like causing pain. I would like to get along with everyone around me, so I'm trying to learn how to be a peacemaker. If I can discover peacemaking and then practice it instead of being afraid, then I won't hurt others. And then maybe they won't hurt me!

Come with me, and together we'll discover peacemaking!

MAYERLY SÁNCHEZ

It was 1996, and 12-year old Mayerly's friend was killed while he was watching a gang fight near Bogota, Colombia. Mayerly felt sad and helpless. What could she do?

Mayerly started a children's peace club in a local park.

Activities focused on practicing peaceful ways of playing and talking with each other. The club even invited gang members to join! As the peace club grew, Mayerly's work was noticed by an organization called the United Children's Fund. They invited her to be part of the leadership team of a new group—the Colombian Children's Movement for Peace.

But what could a group of children accomplish? They decided to start out big—very big! With the help of some adults, the Children's Movement led a national peace campaign, hoping to convince 500,000 children to vote for peace. The children spoke at schools, churches—anywhere people would listen to their stories about their experiences with violence and their desires for a peaceful place to live. Six months later, 2.7 million children cast votes for their right to peace and an end to violence! The adults of Colombia were inspired by the children and, the next year, more than 10 million of them voted to support the children's ideas.

Each of the young leaders continued to train more children to share the message of peacemaking. Mayerly's belief was that peace must begin in families, move to the streets, spread through their neighborhoods, and affect their country. She also recognized that it was Jesus, living in her heart, who gave her the words, the strength, and the courage she needed to continue being a peacemaker.

Mayerly and the other leaders are grown up now, but the peacemaking work



"Peace begins with yourself, with the way you treat your family, your friends, your communities, your country—but it does not stop there. Peace that begins in the hearts of children can cover the whole world."

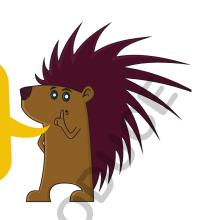
—Mayerly Sánchez

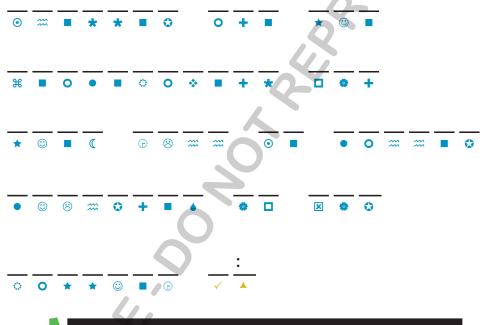
For more information, go to these resources, some of which this story is based on:

- "Mayerly Sánchez." Read the Spirit Interfaith Peacemakers. http://www.readthespirit.com/interfaith-peacemakers/mayer-ly-sanchez/.
- "The Children's Peace Movement." *Humanium*. July 14, 2014. https://www.humanium.org/en/the-childrens-peace-movement/.
- Jewell, Wendy. "Peacemaker Hero: Peace Children." August 12, 2014. http://myhero.com/hero.asp?hero=colombiachildren.
- Cameron, Sara. Out of War: True Stories from the Front Lines of the Children's Movement for Peace in Colombia. New York: Scholastic, 2001.
- Sellers, Jeff M. "A Child Shall Lead Them." *Christianity Today*, December 3, 2001, 46–48.
- Sundem, Garth. Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change. Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing, 2010.

What Is It?

Help me crack the secret code to discover more about practicing peace. Look for the letter that replaces each symbol, and write it on the line. Shh . . . don 't say it until everyone is finished!







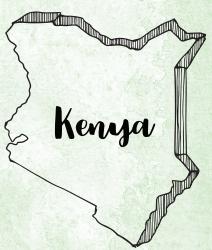
BROOK MUSSELMAN

Eighteen-year-old Brook looked again at his watch. It was well past 9 a.m. No one had arrived . . . Now it was 10 a.m. Would anyone come? Would all the work the team had done over these past four months be wasted? Brook prayed; the team prayed; and they waited.

Their team of four was mostly teenagers. Each had prayed and felt that God wanted them to be peacemakers in a part of Kenya that had experienced great violence. They joined a young pastor working in the small town of Chepilat in western Kenya. Two tribes from the region had recently become enemies. People who didn't like the outcome of the 2007 Kenya presidential election had started fighting each other—including these two tribes. Even some pastors and church people were part of the hatred and violence!

When Brook and the team arrived in Chepilat a year later, they wondered how *anyone* could bring peace to this town. Could God? The team spent lots of time praying, asking God to show them how to help resolve the conflict. But would the adults even listen to them?

Bit by bit Brook and the others took action. They played soccer with the town's children, taught English in an elementary school, visited people in their homes. They talked about Jesus, and about peace. As they interacted with people, they were surprised to discover that many of the pastors and the churches from both tribes were still angry and didn't even trust Christians from the other tribe. The team realized that peace could not come to this town if even those who loved Jesus could not love each other.



They arranged a meeting with the pastors from one of the tribes. The group discussed the causes of the violence and what could be done to bring peace among all the pastors from both tribes. Two weeks later, the team met with pastors from the other tribe. Might it be possible for all the pastors to meet together, and to develop strategies for bringing peace to Chepilat? Both groups agreed to try. Monday, at 9 a.m., they would gather.

Brook checked his watch—again! The morning was almost over. At 11:30, pastors from one tribe showed up. Past noon, the other group finally arrived. Whew! Several speakers shared ideas about how they could work together. God's Holy Spirit worked in the group, and the pastors listened to each other! By the time the day ended, the group of pastors—from different tribes and from different churches—decided to work together for peace in their town, and made plans for how they would go about doing this. Yes, God can bring peace!

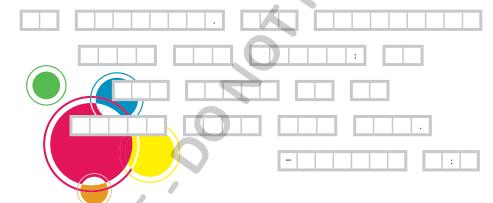
Brook and the rest of the team could hardly believe what they had seen. They were filled with joy and awe! According to Brook, "We were young, and we didn't have any special training in peacemaking. All we did was call people together and share our

passion for peace."



What does it say?

ANOTHER ARE **ASSOCIATE** BE BE BUT CLAIM **HARMONY** HAUGHTY DO DO IN THAN LIVE **LOWLY** NOT NOT ONE ROMANS YOU THE TO WITH WISER WITH





Help me unscramble these Bible memory words to discover more about practicing peace. Write the words in the correct order so that we can read the message together.

JOHN PAUL

John Paul knew how to break up fights. One day when he was in fifth grade, some friends at school got into a big fight. They were hitting each other and saying mean things. John Paul ran up to them.

"Stop!" he shouted, as he pushed his way in between them. "Stop this fighting! Why are you doing this?" The boys just shrugged their shoulders, looking embarrassed.

"Fighting won't help. Just talk!" John Paul said. To his

surprise, his friends listened to him. They stopped fighting and talked to each other. When John Paul was in seventh grade, an assassin killed Martin Luther King Jr., an African American leader. Schools were closed for a couple of days. When John

Paul came back to school, he was surprised to hear some of his friends saying bad things about King in class. He was even more surprised when his teacher seemed to

agree with them.

John Paul didn't agree, and he wanted his classmates to know. He said, "I think Martin Luther King was a great leader. He respected people, no matter what color of skin they had. He did a lot for the people in America." John Paul's classmates looked at him like he was crazy. They didn't understand how he could think like that. Then John Paul realized how different his views were from his classmates'. He believed in solving problems peacefully, and he believed that all people deserved respect.

John Paul also knew how to fight. He and his brother often got into fights. When they drove in the car with their parents, John Paul and his brother sometimes fought in the back seat. His parents got very frustrated. If the fighting was too bad, they stopped the car and told the boys to get out and walk. John Paul's mom and dad drove the car about a half a mile, and waited for the boys to walk to the car together.

John Paul learned that fighting is not the answer. Once, after John Paul's mom heard the boys fighting again, she brought them into the living room and asked them to sit down. She showed them a picture of Joseph and his brothers. It was different from any they had seen in Sunday school. Joseph's brothers were making mean faces at Joseph. They were angry and jealous of his beautiful coat. John Paul knew that he didn't want to be like one of these brothers—angry and jealous of his own brother.

Later in his life, John Paul felt God calling him to help people solve problems peacefully. He became a mediator, someone who helps people talk instead of fight.

John Paul traveled all over, helping people talk to each other instead of fight. In places like Nicaragua, Somalia, and native communities in Canada, John Paul helped others to find peaceful solutions.

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What comes next?

Help me match the words on the left with the words that come after it on the right.



LIVE IN HARMONY

DO NOT

BUT ASSOCIATE

DO NOT

TO BE WISER

DO NOT

EVIL

BUT

FOR WHAT

IN THE SIGHT

WITH THE LOWLY

WITH ONE ANOTHER

CLAIM

REPAY ANYONE

BE HAUGHTY

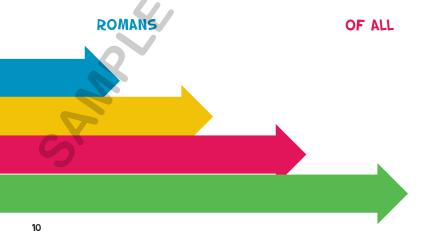
THAN YOU ARE

TAKE THOUGHT

12:16-17

FOR EVIL

IS NOBLE



MALALA YOUSAFZAI

Malala looked out over the audience. It was her 16th birthday, and she was speaking at the United Nations, asking important people to help to make sure that every child in the world could attend school and receive an education.

She had grown up in a family that valued education and ran a group of schools in Pakistan. When Malala was 11 years old, she began to write a blog that told about life in Pakistan. Her blog entries included stories about the actions of a group of militants who were making rules to prevent girls from attending school. They destroyed school buildings.

Malala believed that everyone, including girls, should be allowed to go to school. Her blog, and a documentary about her life, started to make her famous. She spoke up about education for girls whenever she had the chance. Her fame increased as interviews with her appeared on television and in newspapers and magazines.

But not everyone was happy with Malala's success; the militants decided she needed to stop speaking. When Malala was 15, a gunman shot her. She was seriously wounded.

After a long recovery in the hospital, Malala continued to speak up. But now she was even more famous because people around the world had heard her story. She was invited to speak at the United



Photo courtesy Simon Davis/DFID / Wikimedia Commons

Nations, and she visited with leaders of different countries. On October 10, 2014, she learned that she had won the Nobel Peace Prize—an international prize that is awarded to people who have done important work toward peacemaking. She was just 17 years old, the youngest person ever to receive this honor.

Malala continues to speak up for the rights of all children to receive an education, asking world leaders to invest in "books, not bullets."

—Based on "Malala Yousafzai," *Wikipedia*, last modified May 17, 2017, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malala_Yousafzai.



LAB BOOK 11

Where do I go?



Help me say the memory passage and get home from school! Begin at "Start" and find the next word in the verses, going up, down, diagonally, or sideways to put the words in order.

"Start"

Live	money	or	haughty	but	love	win	in	gentle
in	light	be	say	thing	associate	noble	the	sight
harmony	for	not	can	with	become	is	same	of
with	one	do	believe	the	tell	what	all	pray
on	another	some	lowly	keep	for	joy	if	is
people	down	peace	do	fight	thought	against	it	possible
to	claim	not	father	but	take	child	kind	so
be	to	read	evil	good	buy	as	far	you
Wiser	book	tell	for	patience	stop	it	on	live
than	you	upon	see	evil	bridge	depends	duty	peaceably
evil	are	do	make	anyone	seem	play	with	in
but	is	not	repay	ever	team	top	bless	all

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

CHILDREN AT FRANKLIN PARK COMMUNITY GARDENS

Isaiah didn't know what to do. He was used to seeing some damage in the community garden at the Franklin Park
Community Gardens near his home in Allentown, Pennsylvania.
Whenever there was vandalism, it made him sad, because he loved working in the garden with the people from church. He enjoyed planting seeds, watering them, and watching them grow. He was proud when there were

planting seeds, watering them, and watching them grow. He was proud when there were vegetables they could share with neighbors. And he was always glad to feel love and peace and kindness from the grownups.

Sometimes some of the neighborhood kids would pick the watermelons before they were ready, or they would twist the tomato cages. Ugh!

But one evening Isaiah had made a big mistake. Some of his friends started throwing some of the unripe, green tomatoes at each other. Then they threw them at Isaiah! Before he took time to think, Isaiah got carried away and started picking and throwing green tomatoes back at them!

Afterward, Isaiah was afraid to tell Ms. Angela that he had been part of the group that had made the mess. What would she say?

Isaiah swallowed hard, then went to Ms. Angela and told her what he had done. He apologized for destroying the tomatoes. And Ms. Angela didn't get mad! She told him how frustrated she got sometimes, especially since she wanted to make sure they had plenty of food from the garden to share with the neighborhood.

They both felt the same way! He asked her to help him figure out what he could say to his friends if they started throwing tomatoes again.

Then Ms. Angela did something that really surprised him! When some of the children who had torn up the garden came to the park, Ms. Angela asked them to help water the garden. Instead of trying to keep the children away from the garden, she invited them to help!

What fun it was to work together peacefully in the garden.



Photo courtesy Patti Connolly

To learn more about the gardening project and peace, check out the Franconia Conference Vimeo video "Whitehall and Ripple – 2016 Assembly – Plant Water Grow," https://vimeo.com/190391677.

Can you write it from memory?

I wonder if I can write the Bible memory verses by memory. Will you fill in the blanks to help me?



FAR ALL **EVIL PEACEMAKERS** ALL **POSSIBLE** HARMONY ANOTHER ASSOCIATE GOD REPAY ROMANS CALLED SIGHT **BLESSED** HAUGHTY LOWLY THEY THOUGHT CLAIM CHILDREN MATTHEW NOBLE WISER YOU EVIL **DEPENDS** NOT **PEACEABLY** YOU

_	ARE THE	FOR		
WILL BE		OF	5:9	
	1			
LIVE IN	WITH ONE	; DO	BE,	
BUT	WITH THE	; DO NOT	то ве	_
THAN	ARE. DO NOT	ANYONE	FOR	
BUT TAKE	FOR WHAT IS	IN THE	OF	
IF IT IS	, so	AS IT	ON,	
LIVE _	with		1≥:16-18	



PEACEMAKER.



I'M SO GLAD WE COULD DISCOVER PEACEMAKING TOGETHER!



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