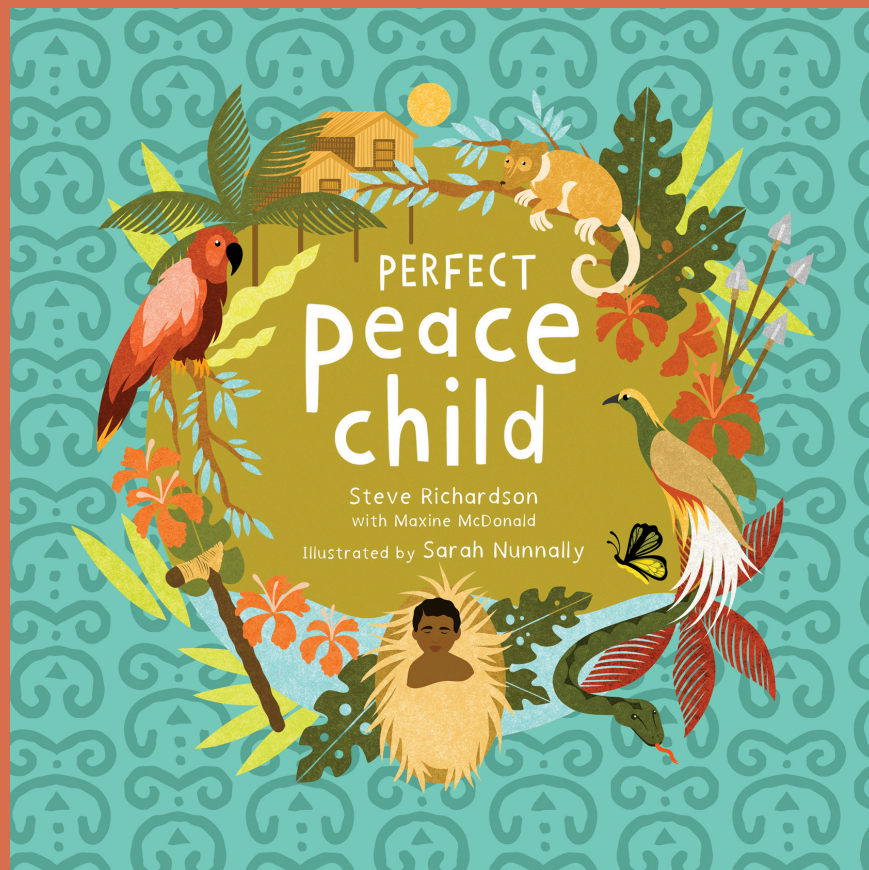


Perfect Peace Child Devotional

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This family devotional is a companion to the book *Perfect Peace Child* by Steve Richardson with Maxine McDonald. For more information about the book, visit missionbooks.org or scan the QR code.



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A Peace Child for Everyone

You probably know the song *Jesus Loves Me*. In the Sawi language, the song goes, “*Yesus no ke hauwam maken . . .*” Jesus loves you very much.

Do you know who else Jesus loves?

Everybody!

He even loves people who aren’t easy to love. When Jesus came to earth as God’s Peace Child, he met a man no one liked. His name was Zacchaeus. The Bible doesn’t tell us much about him, but we know he was short, rich, and mean (Luke 19:1–10).

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so much that he climbed a tree to catch a glimpse over everyone else’s heads. He probably thought no one would notice him up there. But Jesus noticed him. He greeted Zacchaeus by name and then invited himself over for dinner!

Once Zacchaeus met Jesus, he decided not to be mean anymore, which made him



much more lovable. But Jesus had already loved him first.

God wants everyone in the world to have deep-down-forever peace with him, just like many Sawis do today. Another word for that kind of peace is “blessing.” God wants to bless all the peoples in the world through Jesus. His messengers who go to other countries and cultures are called missionaries.

Activity

Find the song [2025, The Blessing, World Edition](#) on YouTube. You’ll hear people from many countries singing about God’s deep-down-forever peace.

Keep Learning

The resources tab on [Joshua Project](#) provides links to kid-friendly missions materials such as maps and prayer guides.



Why We Need a Peace Child

The Sawis seemed pretty scary when my parents first arrived. They did many things that God doesn't like, which we call sin. They were often unkind and loved to trick one another!

Do you know who else does things that make God unhappy?

All of us.

The Bible says, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard" (Romans 3:23 NLT). God is so holy that it doesn't matter if our sins seem big to us (like shooting someone with an arrow) or small (like not sharing a toy). For God, all sin is sin, and it keeps us from being with him.

Just like the Sawis couldn't make deep-down-forever peace on their own, we can't give God a big enough gift to make up for our sin. Being good isn't enough. Reading the Bible isn't enough. That's the bad news. Just like the Sawis, we need a peace child.

Here's the good news! God sent his Son, Jesus, to pay for our sin so we don't have to. The Bible says, "Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins" (Romans 3:24 NLT). Because Jesus died for us, we can have deep-down-forever peace with God.

Activity

People have tried to make peace with God in many ways, including through various religions. Trace your hand on a piece of paper and label each finger with a global religion. They're easy to remember using the acronym THUMB: Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious, Muslim, Buddhist. Pray and ask God to use you to share his good news with people who are trying to find peace through these religions.

Keep Learning

[WorldViews: A Children's Introduction to Missions](#) teaches children about global religions using videos, crafts, activities, recipes, and other interactive tools organized around the THUMB acronym.

God Sent Jesus. Jesus Sends Us.

God's Peace Child is for everyone. In Romans 1:16, one of the first missionaries says, "For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile" (NLT).

Just like the Sawis before my family arrived, most people who don't know Jesus don't have a Christian friend either. If we want them to hear God's good news, we have to make new friends!

In Acts 8, the Bible tells us about a missionary named Philip. Not long after Jesus went back to heaven, Philip moved to a new city, shared God's good news, and started a church. It was exciting!

But Philip didn't get to stay and celebrate for long. One day, God sent an angel to tell him to go out to a desert road. A man from Ethiopia, a faraway country, came by in a chariot, and Philip got to tell him about Jesus, too. Then Philip continued to other cities and towns, explaining God's good news.

Jesus said all Christians should always be looking for people who haven't heard about him and places where there aren't churches (Matthew 28:18–20). How could you make a new friend who doesn't know Jesus?

Activity

Print out a map of the world. Mark where you live, where your family is from, and places you've traveled to. Then find a map online of the "10/40 Window" and draw it on your family map. More than half of the people in the world live inside that rectangle. Many of them don't know Jesus. Pray that God would send missionaries to tell them about his Peace Child.

Keep Learning

Choose a country in the 10/40 Window and learn as much as you can about it. Find a restaurant in your area that serves their food or look for a recipe online. Read about their history or take a Google Earth street view tour through their capital city. Pray that many people from that country would have deep-down-forever peace with God.



How We Tell the Story

Do Sawi names like Hato and Mavo sound a little strange? The Sawis speak an entirely different language! When my parents first arrived in the swamp, my dad learned how to say, “What is this?” He tried to get a new friend to tell him the names of things.

Dad pointed at palm tree and asked, “What is this?” The Sawi man answered, “Ririg.” Then Dad pointed at a treehouse, and again his friend said, “Ririg.” Dad thought it was strange that two things would have the same name. No matter what he pointed at, the Sawis always called it a *ririg*.

Can you guess what *ririg* really means in the Sawi language?

Dad soon realized that Sawi people don’t use their fingers to point at things. Instead, they use their lips! They didn’t understand why Dad kept holding up his finger and asking what it was—they’d already told him it was a *ririg*!

Today, people speak more than 7,000 languages all around the world. If you started reading a list of every language out loud after lunch, you’d barely finish by dinnertime. In heaven, every kind of person will worship God in every one of those languages! Jesus’s best friend, John, got a sneak peek at what that will be like and wrote about it:



I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.

(Revelation 7:9 NLT)

Can you imagine being at a church service like that?

Activity

Pour a cup of uncooked rice on a cookie sheet and spread it out with your *ririg*. Every grain of rice represents a language (about 7,000 total). How many can you name? Think about places you’ve traveled, friends from other countries, and the settings of your favorite movies. If you need more ideas, relisten to *The Blessing* song from day 1 and notice the languages of the singers. I’ll get you started alphabetically: Albanian, Bambam, Comanche, Djambarrpuyngu . . .

Keep Learning

Ethnologue.com has information about all the known languages of the world, compiled by SIL International to help with Bible translation.



The Biggest Party Ever!

Would you like to meet my Savi friends from the *Perfect Peace Child* book? You absolutely can.

If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died to take away your sins and then was raised to life again, someday you'll get to meet him face to face in heaven. So will many Savi people as well as every other Christian in the world.

The Bible says we'll have a big celebration like a wedding feast:

Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder:

"Praise the LORD!

For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Let us be glad and rejoice,

and let us give honor to him.

For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb,
and his bride has prepared herself. . . ."

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

(Revelation 19:6–9 NLT)

This will be like the Savi Christmas feast, but even better. I'd love to introduce you to Hato and Mavo!

Activity

What would you like to eat at a feast with Jesus? Print the Savi Christmas feast coloring page at the end of this packet and add your own menu suggestions. Do you think Jesus will serve beetle grubs?

Keep Learning

[Window on the World](#), created by Operation World, is a great prayer resource for families. It includes information, pictures, and prayer requests for every country.

Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



Day 4



Day 5

