

IDP: Resources

The basic understanding is that every religion that has scripture or a collection of religious texts, has passages that point the way to living peaceably with God, fellow human beings, and all of creation. Please use the texts of your tradition that can deepen your and your peoples understanding of peace and social justice. Below are a few points of reflection on the scriptures most commonly used by Christians and Jews for the weekend of 19th and 20th of September, followed by a few talking points about nuclear disarmament and World peace. There is a list of quotes from many people from many different traditions that could support your message or reflections. Finally there is a list of prayers for peace from many various traditions and religious leaders.

Homily/sermon/reflection suggestions

Roman Catholic – 25th Sun Ordinary

Wis 2:12, 17-20

Ps 54:3-4,5,6-8

Jas 3:16- 4:3

Mk 9:30-37

Christian Revised Common Lectionary - Proper 20

Psalm: Psalm 1 or Psalm 54

Old Testament: Proverbs 31:10-31

or Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22

or Jeremiah 11:18-20

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Epistle: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Jewish – Rosh Hashanah – New Year –

Some Talking Points on Nuclear Disarmament

- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: has dedicated this year's International Day of Peace to Nuclear Disarmament. The title is "We Must Disarm!" or poignantly "WMD" the acronym that has been so readily used this decade for "weapons of mass destruction"
- We have created a world in which it is difficult to do good! We have placed ourselves on a train ride to destruction. Nuclear weapons were created to reek mass havoc.
- Nuclear weapons are indiscriminate – the innocent and creation will always suffer.

- The only use of Nuclear weapons we have as a judge was Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Not only was the devastation of those cities complete, the physical after-effects to the people and environment continues to this day, not to mention the psychological and spiritual effects it has had. This was the early development of nuclear weapons. Now they are even more powerful and destructive.
- The amount of money spent on maintaining our Nuclear Arms could be invested in solving many of the social problems of our world and help build a more just society that would not need nuclear weapons for defence.

Christian – Gospel - Mark 9:30-37 – “Real Power”

The Apostles were arguing about who is the greatest among them. We can easily replace the characters of the apostles with countries, presidents or other government leaders in discussing who is the greatest.

- To make it more personal name some leaders or countries (but be careful not to create a hierarchy even with the ones you name (eg. Don't just say Obama and GB, or US and Germany and Japan, use Brazil, or one of the newer G-20 members – or even use a country or leader not in the G-20)

The Christ showed that true strength is:

- An internal strength
- Service and love of others
- Laying down ones life

Protection is necessary. But for Christians we must decide where we are going to place our faith. We say we place our faith in Christ, but too often the way we live puts more faith in our status, wealth, government, military, weaponry such as nuclear weapons.

Let's be truly honest with ourselves, one another and God, what is power. Time to admit where power really lies – in love and self-giving!

Interconnectedness – economy that focuses only on self, protection that protects only self is bound for destruction

We show real and lasting power when we show and act out of concern for others

Jewish – Rosh Hashanah

Gen. 21.1-34, Num. 29.1-6. I Samuel 1.1-2.10

Or [Genesis 22:1-19](#), [Deuteronomy 29:9-14](#), [Isaiah 55:1-13](#)

The Call to return to God

Repentance of man – judgment by God

Need for repentance for the world that we have created, the potential for such self destruction

We show real and lasting power when we show and act out of concern for others

2 Suggested Wisdom Stories:

Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside all people. He said, 'My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false, pride, superiority, and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.' The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: 'Which wolf wins?'

The old Cherokee simply replied, 'The one you feed.'

True Power:

One day a monk and tender of trees was in his orchard next to a country road mending and grafting his trees. He heard the clamor of a large caravan coming down the road and he walk out onto the road to see the commotion. The King and a large cohort with all its regalia was coming toward him. The monk smiled as they galloped by. As the king road past he was disturbed by the monks smirk, stopped, dismounted in stood in the humble monks face. The king ordered him wipe the smirk off his face and to bow to his authority. The monk simply smiled bigger. The King became furious! He barked at the monk, “do you not know that I am the King, do you not know that I could dispatch you with my sword in an instant!” The monk humbly and calmly spoke, “You think you are powerful because you are king and have armaments. I am more powerful than you!” The king was astounded and drew his sword to kill him. The monk said, “if you think you are so powerful cut the limb from the tree above you” The king laughed and said, “that is easy” as he effortlessly lopped off the limb above him. Then the monk said to the king, “Now, if you think you are so powerful, put the limb back on!” The King was humbled that day by a smiling defenseless monk and he returned that way many times to consult the wisdom and direction of the monk

Jewish -

September 19, 2009: Rosh Hashanah I Gen. 21.1-34, Num. 29.1-6. I Samuel 1.1-2.10

Or [Genesis 22:1-19](#), [Deuteronomy 29:9-14](#), [Isaiah 55:1-13](#)

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FACTS AT A GLANCE

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[*Printer-Friendly Version*](#)

~28,800: The total number of intact nuclear warheads retained by the United States and Russia.

~30,000: Number of intact nuclear warheads throughout the world. 17,500 of these are considered operational.

128,000+: Estimated number of nuclear warheads built worldwide since 1945. All but 2 percent of these nuclear warheads have been built by the United States (55 percent or 70,000+) and Russia (43 percent or 55,000+). ¹

10,729: Total number of intact U.S. nuclear warheads (274 warheads are awaiting dismantlement)

10,455: Total warheads in the U.S. stockpile

7,000: Approximate number of operational strategic U.S. nuclear weapons

~5,000: Component parts ("strategic reserve" or plutonium pits) in U.S. nuclear arsenal

1,600: Approximate number of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons (~800 of these are operational)

8,400: Total number of operational nuclear warheads in Russian arsenal

5,000: Approximate number of Russian strategic nuclear weapons

3,400: Approximate number of operational Russian tactical nuclear weapons (total tactical arsenal said to comprise as many as 10,000+ weapons)

3,500: Approximate number of strategic U.S. nuclear weapons, year 2003 under START II.

3,000: Approximate number of strategic Russian nuclear weapons, year 2003 under START II.

1,500-2,000: Approximate number of strategic nuclear weapons suggested as the ceiling for the United States and Russia under START III agreement.

1,700-2,200: Maximum number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons that will remain in the U.S. and Russian arsenals by 2012 as agreed to by The Treaty of Moscow (also known as SORT) signed by U.S. President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin in May 2002.

10,000: The number of warheads the United States will retain in 2012 (essentially the same number as today) if the reductions laid out in the Treaty of Moscow are completed by transferring warheads from active delivery vehicles to either a "responsive force" or to "inactive reserve." The active force will consist of approximately 3,500 warheads. (500 ICBM+ 1,680 SLBM + 1,376 bomber)

\$3.5 trillion: Amount the United States spent between 1940 and 1995 to prepare to fight a nuclear war.

\$27 billion: Amount the United States spends annually to prepare to fight a nuclear war.

\$2.2 billion: Cost for one B-2 bomber (21 were authorized by Congress).

\$2.5 billion: The lifecycle cost of each B-2 (RDT&E, procurement, operations, maintenance, and support).

The figures cited above were gathered with the aid of resources from the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) website. www.nrdc.org

End Note

¹ Robert S. Norris and Hans M. Kristesen, "NRDC Nuclear Notebook: Global Nuclear Stockpiles, 1945-2002," *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, November/December 2002.