

I Dream, You Dream

By Beth Beall



Martin Luther King, Jr. used his own words to paint a picture of God's dream for the world. We'll read part of King's famous speech from 1963, then we'll choose an activity to help us think about God's dream for peace.

For

Just for Kids

Season

Winter



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Needed

Story on page four below, scissors, pen/pencil, markers **or** paints, internet access.

Activity Plan

1. Prayer helps us to quiet down and listen for to God. You may want to begin by saying the following prayer silently or aloud. Or, simply say some words that come from your heart.

Loving God, your dream is for the world to be full of goodness and joy. Give us strength and courage as we work to make that dream come true. Amen.

2. Read the story on page four below. The story is entitled, "I Have a Dream." It is a shortened version of the speech that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave in Washington, D.C. in the year 1963. Read it on your own, or invite someone to read it with you.
3. After you read the story, think about one or more of the following questions on your own or with a parent or friend:
 - If you had been standing beside Dr. King when he gave his famous speech in 1963, I wonder what you would have liked to say to him or ask him?
 - I wonder which part of Dr. King's speech you like the best?
 - I wonder if Dr. King ever felt scared as he worked to bring God's dream to life?
4. Next time you are at your public library, check to see if they have a copy of a book called, *I Have a Dream*, by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The illustrations are painted by a man named Kadir Nelson. It is the only picture book version of Dr. King's speech, and the paintings are beautiful. The book includes a CD recording of the entire speech.
5. Both of the activities below focus on God's dream for peace in the world. Pick one to try at home.
 - **Write your own "I Have a Dream" statements.** On the cloud outline (page 3) write the words, "I have a dream that _____." Take some time to think

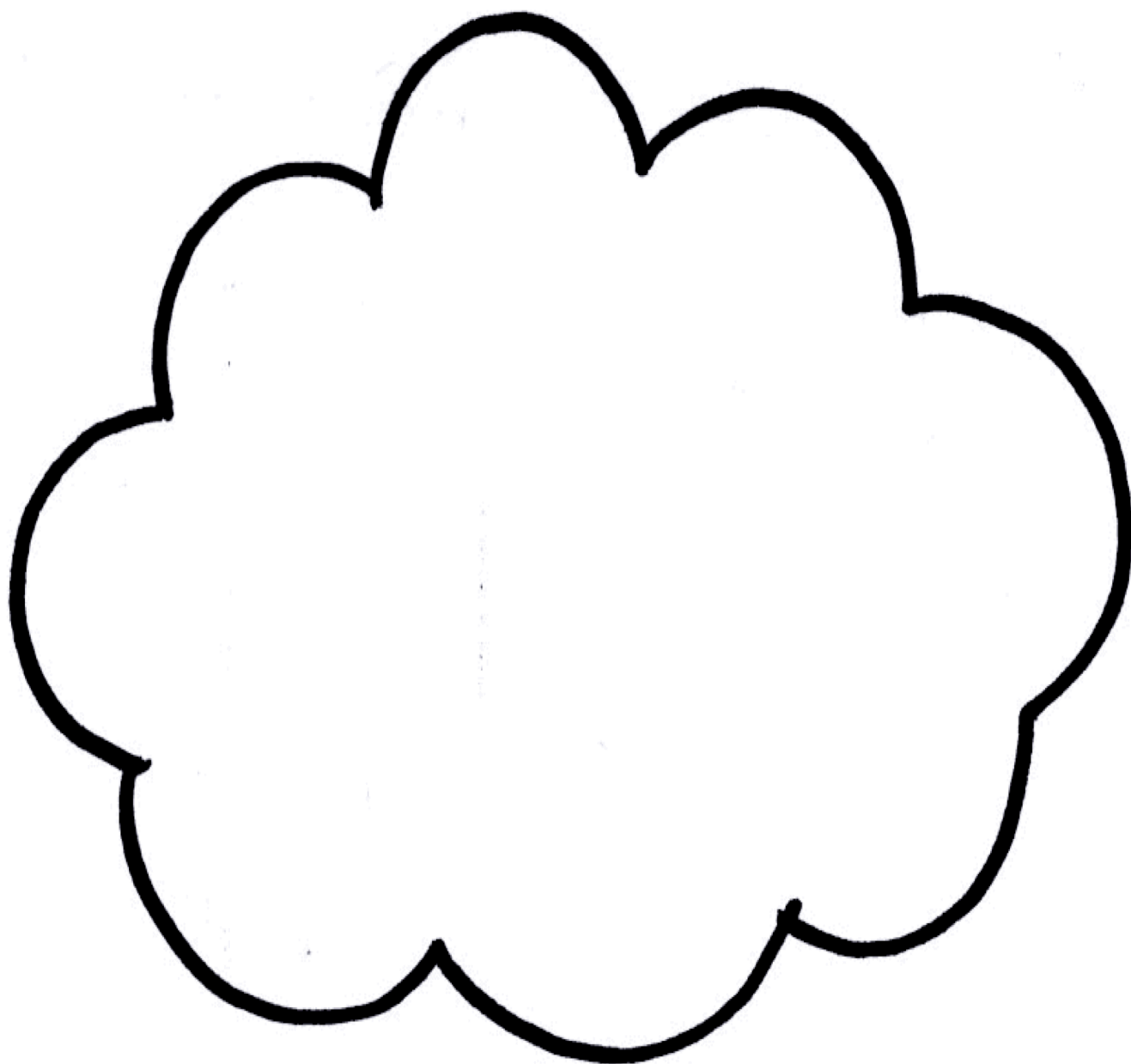


about your dream for God's world. If you need help thinking of ideas, ask yourself some questions such as, "What is something that I wish all children in the world had?" Then turn your answer into a statement. For example, "I have a dream that all children will have parents who can take care of them." Or you might ask yourself, "What is one of my favorite things in the whole world?" Your dream statement might then be, "I have a dream that all people will be able to play a musical instrument" or "I have a dream that everyone will have a quiet corner where they can hear themselves think."

You can write "I have a dream that _____" more than once on the cloud outline if you want. Fill in the sentence(s) on the cloud shape, and then cut the cloud out. Hang it up in your bedroom or in a place where your entire family might see it.

- **Decorate a peace dove.** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., worked very hard to bring God's peace into the world. The dove is a symbol of peace. Use markers or paints to decorate the dove on page 3, below. If you have tempera (poster) paints, it would be neat to press your fingertips into the paints and fill the inside of the dove with colorful fingertip dots. Otherwise, decorate your dove however you would like. Cut the dove out when you are finished decorating it, and then find a place to display your dove. When you look at the dove, ask God to help you work for peace just as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., did.







“I Have a Dream” by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1963, half a million people gathered in Washington D.C. and listened as Martin Luther King, Jr., cried out for the freedom and equality of all God's children. The words that Rev. King spoke echo the words of some of the prophets in the Old Testament. His words also echo the message of Jesus. God dreams of a world where we live as one family, a family where everyone is free. Below is a portion of Dr. King's speech. If you'd like to hear the speech in its entirety, you can listen on the internet at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRIF4_WzU1w

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'

"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day...little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.

"I have a dream that one day 'every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low; the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.'

"This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: *My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!*

"And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

"So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that: Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi.

"From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

"And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jew and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

"Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

