

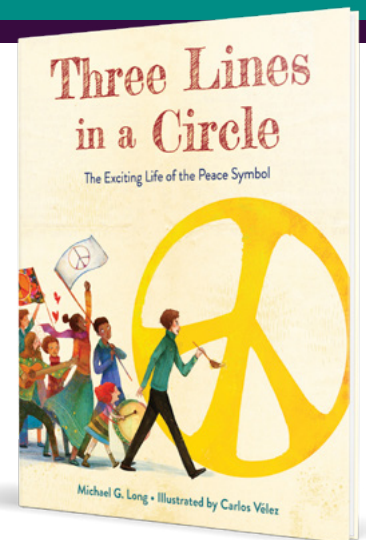
# READ★PRAY★WONDER★PLAY

## A GUIDE TO SHARING STORIES WITH CHILDREN

### Three Lines in a Circle: The Exciting Life of the Peace Symbol

By Michael G. Long & Carlos Vélez

The peace sign is one of those symbols that seems to need no explanation; it has become such a part of our culture that most people immediately recognize it. Recognizing it, however, is not the same as understanding its origins. This book offers a glimpse of not only how and why it was created, but also the many contexts in which it has been utilized to represent peace. The story sets an excellent foundation, and for the more curious reader, the short history and timeline at the back of the book provide a launching point for further study. As you prepare to read, be aware of how much the child(ren) with whom you are sharing it may know about the peace symbol. As much as you are able, be ready to fill in details and expand on any of the settings or situations described in the story.



#### ★ ★ WONDER TOGETHER ★ ★

- At the beginning of the book, we read that Gerry “began to draw his dream.” Describe a dream or idea you’ve had. How were you able to share it?
- The book lists people, places, and situations in our world that long for peace. What is one that comes to your mind?
- The three lines and one circle create a symbol that is both simple and clear. What other images (such as traffic signs, emojis, or logos) can you think of with a similarly clear and simple design?
- Early on, a person mocked Gerry’s work saying, “it will never catch on.” If you have ever experienced someone making fun of something you’ve made, how did you feel? How did you respond?

#### ★ ★ EXPLORE THE STORY ★ ★

- This book references non-violent protests across decades and in countries around the world. Share what different members of your household know about events such as the ones described or experiences they have had participating in non-violent protests or marches.
- Like so many symbols and objects (including crosses, Native American dreamcatchers, and even the US flag) the peace sign has been used commercially, appearing on everything from T-shirts to notebooks. Have a conversation on symbols familiar to members of your family, reflecting on how they show up in different ways.
- Try your hand at designing a symbol! Pick a concept, idea, or practice, and create a symbol to represent it. Share with one another the meaning behind what you designed.

#### PRAY

God of all creation, your Son, the Prince of Peace, calls us to be peacemakers. In a world where there are many conflicts, may we walk in paths of peace, using our hands, feet, and voices to work towards peace for all. Amen.



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## ★ ★ DIG DEEPER ★ ★

With such rich resources provided in the back of this book, there are almost limitless launching points for exploration. Notice where your child's interest is piqued, and follow those wonderings and questions, whether they were around issues of justice, the art and design of creating a symbol, protests and marches, or something else. Some ideas to help you explore the themes of this book more deeply include:

- Explore the meaning behind the Presbyterian Seal (or that of your own denomination). Embedded in the PC(USA) seal are numerous distinct symbols including, among others, a cross, a dove, and flames. Learn more here: <https://pcusa.org/resources/pcusa-seal>.
- Research other symbols of peace that have emerged in different cultures over the years including the olive branch, paper cranes, doves, and the V hand sign.
- There are hundreds of references to peace in the Bible. Using an online concordance (such as <https://bible.oremus.org/>), do a search to find occurrences of the word "peace." Some to get you started include:
  - The psalms, many of which have themes of peace.
  - The prophets, who shared visions of peace, and prophecies of a savior who would bring peace.
  - The Gospels, particularly in the beatitudes, where Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9).
  - Paul's letters that encouraged new faith communities to live peaceably.
- Visit your local library to look for books about non-violent protests and their leaders.
- Do a YouTube search for footage of historical marches, perhaps counting how many signs you see with the peace symbol on them.
- Create something using a peace symbol! Its simple design makes it easy for even young children to replicate. Some ideas include making painted peace symbol Kindness Rocks to place in your community or an art project with each member of your household creating a peace symbol reflecting their interests and personality.

## MORE TO READ & DO

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE

### ADDITIONAL DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES FOR *THREE LINES IN A CIRCLE*

- Download the [Activity Sheet](#)

### ADDITIONAL BOOKS ON COMMUNITY & GETTING INVOLVED

- [Walking toward Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman Called Peace Pilgrim](#), by Kathleen Krull and Annie Bowler
- [For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World](#), by Michael W. Waters and Keisha Morris
- [Liberty's Civil Rights Road Trip](#), by Michael W. Waters and Nicole Tadgell
- [The Coat](#), by Séverine Vidal and Louis Thomas
- [Crocodile's Crossing: A Search for Home](#), by Yoei Slegers

Guide written by Becky D'Angelo-Veitch and created in partnership with PC(USA)'s initiative "[Around the Table](https://pcusa.org/aroundthetable)" ([pcusa.org/aroundthetable](https://pcusa.org/aroundthetable)).



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