

FOUNDATIONS

The Story of Pax

*A Six Week Study on
Peace and Justice*



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We are Pax, a faith-based organization with the vision to transform the 21st century through the peace of Jesus. Our mission is to inspire and equip the next generation through slow, beautiful, Jesus-centered-content by people of color.

Through our content, artistry, and collaboration, we strive for a better world together. For more information about our discipleship materials or partnership opportunities, please visit us at madeforpax.org.

This guide is a beta resource that we are still refining. If you find any errors, issues, or have any insights into how we can improve this guide, please reach out to us at eli@madeforpax.org. We want this resource to last and we really appreciate your feedback.

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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

Pax

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Layout Design by Danny Canales & Mondo Scott.

Edited by Michelle Ami Reyes.

A large, stylized bird logo in dark brown is centered on the page. The bird is facing right, with its head tilted upwards. It has a simple, rounded body and a single dark brown eye. The background is a solid light orange color. The text is overlaid on the bird's body.

**A resource by and for
people of color**

**A Little
About**

PAX

Who We Are

Pax is a faith-based organization dedicated to inspiring and equipping the next generation through slow, beautiful, Jesus-centered content created by people of color. We carry this mission out through a multi-sensory publication called the Pax StoryArc that offers a unique discipleship pathway that helps us become more like Jesus. We also resource faith-based organizations and the next generation with high quality biblical courses that will help us grow in just-living and peace-making in local settings. We believe that the 21st century can be transformed through individuals and communities banding together to promote peace and a movement of justice.

Values

We are guided by four core values that undergird and frame everything we do. You will see these values integrated throughout the Story of Pax course.

<i>Story</i>	We listen to and feature stories as the means of growing in our faith.
<i>Simplicity</i>	We strive to be understable in all of what we create.
<i>Solidarity</i>	We stand with those who have experienced forms of marginalization.
<i>Scripture</i>	We understand Jesus and the Christian faith through the Scriptures.

Our Discipleship Pathway

We created a custom discipleship pathway that is integrated into sessions 2-6 of this course. The four path paints of the StoryArc are *Manifesto*, *Myth*, *Material*, & *Motion*. Through each of these components, we unpack one big idea. These four “M” are meant to help follow the big idea from concept to call to action.



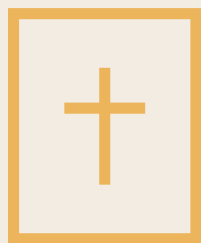
Manifesto

Proclaim the good news of Pax in the world.



Myth

Discern the lies and false narratives that surround us.



Material

Reveal the biblical witness to Pax in the world.



Motion

Participate in the active work of Pax in the world.



MANIFESTO

MYTH

MATERIAL

— MOTION

The aim of Pax StoryArc is for a person or group of people to move through a process of ideas with a beginning, middle, and end. This discipleship pathway guides you through each week's class. From the opening scripture reading (Manifesto) to the ending spiritual practice (Motion), these path points are the stepping stones that guide your journey with Jesus, God's Spirit, and your small group to learn how peacemaking and justice are central to faith and life.



Our Pedagogy

Jesus-Centered

We center our content, message, and educational material around Jesus.

The one person we could all stand to focus more on is Jesus. If we could all divert a measure of our digital time in the direction of someone worthy, it is Jesus. We, at Pax, desire to center everything we do on the person, work, and kingship of Jesus. He is the hope, the solution, and our path toward peace. Jesus is our peacemaking King.

Slow

We believe in the slow movements of spiritual formation in a climate of fast-food discipleship.

We resist the type of fast-food spiritual formation that most Christian outlets offer. An online article titled “Seven Ways To Live Like Jesus” or “Why Christians Should Not Vote For Senator Whoever” are more likely to reinforce your preconceptions than they are to actually form you into a new person. Outside of God’s immediate intervention in your life, it takes much longer to change our heart, mind, and feelings. If we are going to become different people and change the world, then we must sit with challenging ideas, critically engage with art, and build new habits of our heart that form us over time.

Critical

We believe that spiritual formation should be led and geared towards those who historically inhabit spaces from the margins.

It is the intention and goal of Pax to challenge anything that stands against the flourishing and peace of all people, including subdominant cultures, cultural narratives and expressions. Jesus promotes a spiritual formation that is suspicious of the norm, and we need the voices of color to teach us how to be critical of power dynamics, colonial engagements, and spiritual darkness that bends toward an unjust status quo.

Beautiful

We believe that well curated art and aesthetically pleasing content are key to changing the world.

What are the gateways to the human heart? The enlightenment and the modern era taught us that if we have enough information, maintain crystal clear thinking, and produce enough machines to guard the world from war and hunger, we will be saved from the darkness that lurks under the surface of humanity. This experiment, however, has failed. The kingdom of God brings colors unseen, worlds unreached, and poetry unwritten that declare the peace of Jesus over all. This is resurrection. This is God's love and truth. This is the way of Pax. We seek to both illustrate and unpack this reality through unique digital experiences, using words, sounds, visuals, and creative resources to offer a new way forward.

Active

We believe in a spiritual formation process that connects our feelings and thoughts to a changed world.

Knowledge is useless without putting it to work. The last part of our discipleship pathway (called the StoryArc) ends with a section called Motion, which puts the truths, feelings, thoughts, and new forms of knowledge to work. In this section, we call our participants to an active faith in Jesus that seeks to listen, learn, and live out the truths discovered in the StoryArc. If faith without works is dead, then we want a faith that is active and growing.

Further Resources

We have curated a brief list of Pax resources.
For more information, visit our website madeforpax.org.

StoryArc Issue 01
Cosmic Peace

StoryArc Issue 02
Culture Identity

StoryArc Issue 03
Scripture

Cultural Identity as Resistance by Robert Chao Romero

Food + Rhythm for the Soul by Lucretia Berry

Tethered: 21 Prayers of Pax for and by Gen Zers of Color.

