

PEACE IN THE KINGDOM

Book by Cynthia and Michael Marion

Music and Lyrics by Michael Marion



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Peace in the **Kingdom**

A musical parable about shalom

book by Cynthia and Michael Marion
music and lyrics by Michael Marion

To our parents

Clark, Charlene, Dick and Freda

To our children

Heidi, Joshua and Kate

And all of the children of the

Global Village

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Bible text has been adapted from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

The idea for the song “Global Village” was suggested by *Making Peace in the Global Village* by Robert McAfee Brown (Westminster Press, 1981).

We also wish to express our appreciation to Rhodes Thompson for teaching shalom by example; to Southwestern College in Kansas for allowing a religion major to also develop in the areas of music and drama; and to Jim Reed and Diane Mulanax for their encouragement along the way.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

**Custodian
Lion
Lamb
Wolf
Leopard
Cow
Bear
Child
North Chorus
South Chorus
East Chorus
West Chorus**

SETTING

An art gallery at closing time

PRODUCTION NOTES

“Peace in the Kingdom” is easily adaptable to a variety of settings. It requires few props or set pieces. The only requirement is a backdrop or flat painted to represent the background of an oil painting. The ANIMALS and CHILD form their tableau arrangement in front of this backdrop.

We would also suggest that the NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, and WEST CHORUSES be in a “compass” formation around the ANIMALS and CHILD:

NORTH	
WEST	ANIMALS and CHILD
	EAST
SOUTH	

This can easily be accomplished by placing the NORTH on a platform or bench behind the ANIMALS and CHILD, and by having the SOUTH on a lower level or seated in front of the ANIMALS and CHILD.

Six animal costumes will need to be constructed or obtained (lion, lamb, wolf, leopard, cow and bear). These can be as elaborate or simple as desired. The CHILD should wear a simple white tunic. The CUSTODIAN should be dressed in work clothes or a uniform. Each CHORUS (NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, and WEST) should have its “uniform.” The NORTH should be costumed in a way that suggests affluence. The costume of the SOUTH should represent poverty. EAST and WEST should be dressed exactly the same with the exception of color. The costume of each CHORUS member should have the appropriate letter (N, S, E, or W) on its front.

“Peace in the Kingdom” can be presented by youth or adults. The four CHORUSES allow for flexibility in the number of participants.

Duration: About 30 minutes.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- 1. Prelude**
- 2. It's a Jungle Out There!**
- 3. Us or Them**
- 4. More! More! More!**
- 5. Less**
- 6. Jungle (Reprise)**
- 7. Shalom is More**
- 8. Global Village**
- 9. Take Care!**
- 10. He is Our Peace**
- 11. We've Gotta Change Our Style**
- 12. A Little Child Shall Lead**
- 13. Peace in the Kingdom**

1 **AT RISE:** The scene opens with the gallery in place. The
 2 **ANIMALS** and the **CHILD** are in a tableau arrangement
 3 representing an Edward Hicks painting of “The Peaceable
 4 Kingdom.” The **CUSTODIAN** walks across the stage, sweeping
 5 and dusting as he prepares to lock up the building for the
 6 night.

7

8 **CUSTODIAN:** Well...time to lock up for the night. (*Exits.*)

9 **LION:** He’s gone.

10 **COW:** Does that mean the coast is clear?

11 **WOLF:** Of course that’s what it means.

12 **BEAR:** You don’t have to jump all over her.

13 **LEOPARD:** I for one get a pain in my neck from just holding
 14 that position.

15 **WOLF:** You *are* a pain in the neck.

16 **LEOPARD:** Well, I never!

17 **BEAR:** That’s enough.

18 **LAMB:** Oh, it does feel nice to move. Could you rub my
 19 shoulders please?

20 **COW:** Certainly.

21 **CHILD:** Where did *he* go? (*Following CUSTODIAN*)

22 **LEOPARD:** The world, of course.

23 **CHILD:** The world? What’s that?

24 **WOLF:** That’s where the “people” live.

25 **LAMB:** Silly mixed-up people.

26 **CHILD:** What?

27 **BEAR:** Present company excluded, dear.

28 **CHILD:** Oh, I’d love to go out there! (*Longingly*)

29 **LION:** You wouldn’t if you knew what it was like out there.

30 **CHILD:** What do you mean?

31 **ANIMALS:** It’s a jungle out there!

32 (*Singing*)

33 **LION:** It’s a jungle out there

34 and you’d better beware.

35 **WOLF:** It’s a jungle out there

1 so you'd better prepare.
2 LAMB: It's a jungle out there
3 though I'm sure you're aware.
4 BEAR: It's a jungle out there.
5 COW: Yeah, a bungled affair.
6 ANIMALS: Bungled affair. Better beware. Jungle out there!
7 LION: It's a jungle out there so you'd better beware.
8 COW: It's a jungle out there. Doesn't anyone care?
9 BEAR: It's a jungle out there and in need of repair.
10 LEOPARD: It's a jungle out there. Not a moment to spare.
11 ANIMALS: Need of repair. Anyone care? Jungle out there!
12 The world's in a world of trouble.
13 We've gotta find a new way on the double.
14 Please look around and you'll surely see.
15 We can't turn our backs a minute.
16 We've gotta find a new hope deep within it.
17 Please look around you'll soon be aware...
18 CHORUS: *(NORTH, SOUTH, EAST and WEST enter singing.)*
19 It's a jungle out there and you'd better beware.
20 It's a jungle out there so you'd better prepare.
21 It's a jungle out there
22 though I'm sure you're aware.
23 It's a jungle out there. Yeah, a bungled affair.
24 Bungled affair. Better beware. Jungle out there!
25 Jungle out there! Jungle out there!
26 Jungle out there! Out there!
27 *(End of song)*
28 CHILD: Why is it such a jungle out there?
29 LION: One reason is because people are so divided. Like the
30 points of the compass they are going in different
31 directions: North, South, East and West. Look at these
32 two groups: The East *(EAST cheers and WEST boos.)* and
33 the West *(WEST cheers and EAST boos.)* According to them
34 they have nothing in common. Listen.
35 *(Singing)*

1 **EAST:** It's us or them.
 2 **WEST:** Them or us.
 3 **BOTH:** Where we differ we don't discuss
 4 For reasons which are obvious:
 5 We are right.
 6 They are wrong.
 7 We cannot get along.
 8 *(During musical interlude both groups gesture defiantly at each*
 9 *other.)*
 10 **WEST:** It's them or us.
 11 **EAST:** Us or them.
 12 **BOTH:** All their actions we must condemn.
 13 We should tear them limb from limb.
 14 We are right.
 15 They are wrong.
 16 Might as well end this song.
 17 *(End of song)*
 18 **CHILD:** Divided is right!
 19 **COW:** I'll never understand them.
 20 **WOLF:** You don't understand anything.
 21 **COW:** Well!
 22 **LAMB:** Watch it! You're beginning to sound like them.
 23 *(Points to EAST and WEST.)*
 24 **WOLF and COW:** Never!
 25 **WOLF:** We may have our differences, but at least we try to
 26 work them out.
 27 **LAMB:** I'm sorry I don't know what got into me.
 28 **LEOPARD:** In that crazy world out there there's one group
 29 that knows exactly what's gotten into them. Want! Look
 30 North and you'll see what they want.
 31 **NORTH:** *(Singing)* More! More! More! More!
 32 More! More! More!
 33 The thing that we adore,
 34 what we can't ignore is more.
 35 The more we have, well, the more we desire.

1 How much more can we acquire?
 2 Where's the sale? Here's the buyer!
 3 More! More! More!
 4 The thing that we adore,
 5 What we cannot ignore is more.
 6 We have more than we'll ever need.
 7 Watch us rationalize our greed:
 8 How you know that you succeed is
 9 More! More! More!
 10 The thing that we adore,
 11 What we cannot ignore is more.
 12 Our consumption is in excess,
 13 But we seek more to possess,
 14 While our neighbors we impress with
 15 More! More! More!
 16 The thing that we adore,
 17 What we cannot ignore is more.

18 *(End of song)*

19 CHILD: Wow! At least they're having a good time!

20 BEAR: That's true. But unfortunately there is another
 21 direction on the compass.

22 CHILD: What do you mean?

23 BEAR: Seeing those with plenty makes us forget what the
 24 majority of the world is really like. Come. Look South
 25 with me now.

26 SOUTH: We are homeless. We are foodless.

27 *(Singing)* We are helpless. We are powerless.

28 We have less than we need to exist.

29 Nevertheless, we live on less.

30 We did not ask for life to be in such a fix.

31 Famine and drought, pestilence and politics:

32 These are the things that we could live with less of,

33 Or would you rather that we acquiesce, but,

34 We are homeless. We are foodless.

35 We feel hopeless. We die unless

1 You will share what it takes to subsist.
 2 Nevertheless, we live on less.
 3 Nevertheless, we die on less.

4 *(End of song)*

5 LION: There you have it. The world as it is.

6 *(Singing)*

7 ANIMALS- EAST-WEST: NORTH: SOUTH:
 8 CHILD:

9 It's a jungle Them or us. More! We are
 10 Out there and Us or them. More! Homeless.
 11 You'd better More! We are
 12 Beware. Foodless.

13
 14 It's a jungle All their The We are
 15 Out there so Actions we Thing Helpless.
 16 You'd better Must condemn. That We are
 17 Prepare. We Powerless.
 18 Adore,

19
 20 It's a jungle We should What We have
 21 Out there, Tear them We Less than
 22 though I'm
 23 Sure you're Limb from Cannot We need
 24 Aware. Limb Ignore To exist.
 25 It's a jungle We are right. Is Nevertheless,
 26 Out there. Yeah They are wrong More! We live
 27 A bungled affair. Might as well On less.
 28 End.

29 CHORUS: Bungled affair. Better beware.
 30 Jungle out there! Jungle out there!
 31 Jungle out there! Jungle out there!
 32 Out there!

33 *(End of song)*

34 CHILD: That's really depressing. Does the world have to be
 35 like that?

1 LION: No. The world could be a "Peaceable Kingdom." People
 2 could live like us in a state of shalom.
 3 BEAR: Shalom? I thought "shalom" was a greeting.
 4 COW: Yeah, like "hello" or "see you later!" (*To WOLF*) Shalom
 5 there!
 6 WOLF: Get out of here!
 7 LION: You're right. Shalom can be used like that, but shalom
 8 means much more.
 9 LEOPARD: Don't you all know anything? Shalom means
 10 peace.
 11 LAMB: Yes, of course. Shalom means there's no fighting.
 12 (*Looks at WOLF and COW.*)
 13 LION: That's partially true. But shalom is much more than
 14 the absence of fighting. Shalom is a gift from God.
 15 Shalom is...well...everything good!
 16 (*Singing*)
 17 Shalom is more than the absence of war.
 18 Shalom is everything good!
 19 Shalom is more than the absence of war.
 20 Shalom is everything good! (Good!)
 21 SOUTH: Shalom is a stomach that's satisfied.
 22 EAST and WEST: Shalom is a treaty that's ratified.
 23 NORTH: Shalom is a liveable neighborhood.
 24 CHORUS: Shalom is everything good!
 25 Shalom is more than the absence of war.
 26 Shalom is everything good!
 27 Shalom is more than the absence of war.
 28 Shalom is everything good! (Good!)
 29
 30 Shalom is health and security.
 31 Shalom is the absence of poverty.
 32 Shalom is concern for ecology.
 33 Shalom is community.
 34
 35 Shalom is more than the absence of war.

- 1 Shalom is everything good!
 2 Shalom is more than the absence of war.
 3 Shalom is everything good! (Good!)
 4
 5 Shalom is wholeness and harmony.
 6 Shalom is a state of equality.
 7 Shalom's a relationship built on trust.
 8 Shalom is everything just
 9 Everything just.
 10
 11 Shalom is more than the absence of war.
 12 Shalom is everything good!
 13 Shalom is more than the absence of war.
 14 Shalom is everything good! (Good!)
 15
 16 Shalom is more than the absence of war.
 17 (Shalom is more than the absence of war.)
 18 Shalom is more than the absence of war.
 19 (Shalom is more than the absence of war.)
 20 Shalom is everything good! Good!
 21 *(End of song)*
 22 LION: In order for people to experience shalom they must
 23 recognize that we are all in this together.
 24 LAMB: No more divisions.
 25 WOLF: No more North, South, East or West.
 26 COW: But all together as one.
 27 BEAR: They must realize that they are interdependent...
 28 LEOPARD: And interrelated.
 29 LION: All a part of the same community.
 30 CHILD: You mean like a Global Village?
 31 ANIMALS: That's it!
 32 *(Singing)*
 33 CHORUS: We are citizens of a Global Village
 34 And we need each other dearly.
 35 We're together

1 Sister and brother
 2 Let us live in harmony with each other.
 3 The world's becoming smaller every day;
 4 A Global Village, and we must not delay
 5 Solving our problems with peaceful action,
 6 Committed to a new compassion.
 7
 8 We are citizens of a Global Village
 9 And we need each other dearly.
 10 We're together
 11 Sister and brother
 12 Let us live in harmony with each other.
 13
 14 We all are different, yet we all are one.
 15 We've much to offer and we have just begun
 16 Working together, sharing resources,
 17 Looking ahead, charting new courses.
 18
 19 We are citizens of a Global Village
 20 And we need each other dearly.
 21 We're together
 22 Sister and brother
 23 Let us live in harmony with each other.
 24
 25 The world is changing faster every day.
 26 We can no longer go on our separate ways,
 27 For our decisions have consequences
 28 That reach beyond our provinces.
 29
 30 We are citizens of a Global Village
 31 And we need each other dearly.
 32 We're together
 33 Sister and brother
 34 Let us live in harmony with each other.
 35 *(End of song)*

1 COW: Hey, wait a minute! Is shalom just about people relating
2 to other people? Don't we fit in there somewhere?

3 LION: Of course we do. Shalom occurs when *all* of God's
4 creation is treated with respect and care.

5 BEAR: The world and all of its living things are gifts from
6 God. People must remember that it is their responsibility
7 to be good stewards of these gifts.

8 LION: Taking care of the environment is a very important
9 part of shalom.

10 COW: Good. I was starting to get worried.

11 *(Singing)*

12 NORTH: We've been given the gift of water.

13 It helps all living things grow.

14 But we keep putting pollutants in it

15 Like oil and waste and chemicals...

16 Would you drink this?

17 *(As the NORTH sings, one member of the CHORUS brings out*
18 *a glass of black water and shows it to the rest.)*

19 CHORUS: Oh, no! Take care. Take care.

20 Take care of the environment.

21 Take care. Take care!

22 Before it takes care of us!

23 SOUTH: We've been given the gift of air.

24 Without it we could not stay.

25 But we keep putting pollutants in it

26 Like smoke, exhaust, and filth and fumes...

27 Would you breathe this?

28 *(As the SOUTH sings, one member of the CHORUS walks*
29 *about spraying a bug sprayer in the air.)*

30 CHORUS: No way! Take care. Take care.

31 Take care of the environment.

32 Take care. Take care!

33 Before it takes care of us!

34 EAST and WEST: We've been given the gift of land.

35 It is our only home.

- 1 But we keep putting pollutants in it,
 2 Like toxic dumps and nuclear wastes...
 3 Would you live here?
 4 (*As EAST and WEST sing, a member of the CHORUS throws*
 5 *trash all over the stage.*)
 6 CHORUS: Oh, no! Take care. Take care.
 7 Take care of the environment.
 8 Take care. Take care!
 9 Before it takes care of us!
 10 (*During the instrumental verse everyone picks up the trash,*
 11 *placing it in garbage bags.*)
 12 CHORUS: We've been given the earth to care for.
 13 It's a hard job to do.
 14 But we've been taking and not replacing
 15 And we'll be left with nothing to...
 16 NORTH and SOUTH: Will you take care...
 17 EAST and WEST: Of earth?
 18 ANIMALS: Yes, you!
 19 CHORUS: Take care. Take care.
 20 Take care of the environment.
 21 Take care. Take care!
 22 Before it takes care of us!
 23 (*End of song*)
 24 CHILD: Wow! Shalom sure means a lot of things.
 25 LEOPARD: Excuse me, but I frankly don't see how people
 26 can ever get a handle on all of this.
 27 WOLF: Me either!
 28 LAMB: Hey, but remember they're not alone. If people would
 29 just remember the one who came to show them the way
 30 to shalom — Jesus Christ.
 31 LION: Even in Jesus' day people were confused and divided.
 32 They didn't have shalom either.
 33 BEAR: Jesus wanted them to understand shalom so much
 34 that he even wept when they couldn't or wouldn't
 35 understand what he was trying to show them.

1 LAMB: He was *their* shalom...*their* peace just as he is for the
2 world today.

3 COW: You know? I'll bet Jesus is shedding a few tears right
4 now. What do you think?

5 *(Singing)*

6 SOLO: Jesus wept over Jerusalem
7 As they struggled to be free
8 For they did not know the things that
9 Made for peace,
10 And they could not see that
11

12 CHORUS: He was their peace.
13 He broke down walls that divided them.
14 He was their peace.
15 He made them one.
16 He was the Prince of Peace.
17

18 SOLO: Jesus came preaching a Kingdom where
19 Peace and justice were the way.
20 He preached peace to those who were both
21 Far and near,
22 But they knew not that day that
23

24 CHORUS: He was their peace.
25 He broke down walls that divided them.
26 He was their peace.
27 He made them one.
28 He was the Prince of Peace.
29

30 Jesus weeps over the world today
31 As we struggle to be free
32 For we do not know the things that
33 Make for peace,
34 And we do not see that
35

1 He is our peace.
 2 He breaks down walls that divide us.
 3 He is our peace.
 4 He makes us one.
 5 He is the Prince of Peace.

6 *(End of song)*

7 WOLF: It looks to me like there has got to be a lot of
 8 changes made to get from this divided situation to a
 9 state of shalom.

10 LEOPARD: You said that right.

11 BEAR: Shalom calls for changes; changes in lifestyle and
 12 perspective.

13 COW: Those are the toughest kind.

14 LION: Yes, I remember when I started eating straw. That
 15 was a struggle! What kind of lifestyle changes do you
 16 folks need to make? Go on...brainstorm!

17 *(Singing)*

18 CHORUS: We've gotta change our style
 19 And walk a second mile;
 20 With neighbors reconcile.
 21 We've gotta change our style.

22 *(During the interlude, members of the EAST and WEST meet*
 23 *Centerstage and exchange gestures of friendship and*
 24 *reconciliation.)*

25
 26 We've gotta change our mode
 27 And walk a different road.
 28 Let's bear each other's load.
 29 We've gotta change our mode.

30 *(During the interlude members of the NORTH come down*
 31 *and share their wealth with the SOUTH.)*

32
 33 We've gotta change our fashion
 34 And not just throw our cash in,
 35 But offer compassion.



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