It was recess at Rainbow Preschool. Children rushed to the playground—only Paula paused. She noticed Jonas sitting alone on a bench. "Don't you want to play?" she asked. Jonas shrugged. "Tom teased me. He says I'm not good enough for his team."

Paula remembered what she had heard in church on Sunday: Jesus tells us to love even those who aren't kind to us. "Do to others as you would have them do to you," the pastor had explained. Paula took a deep breath. "I'll try."

In her backpack she had a fresh loaf she'd baked with Mom—round, with a little heart of sesame on top. "Want to share?" she offered Jonas. He nodded. They cut two slices.

When Tom walked by, he looked skeptical. "What's that?" "Peace bread," Paula said, holding out a slice. "If we share, maybe we can try being friendly." Tom looked at the bread, then at Jonas. "I... I was mean earlier," he muttered. "Can I play too?" Jonas hesitated. Paula remembered Jesus' words: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." So she smiled. "Sure. But let's make sure everyone gets a turn."

The three of them drew a big play area with chalk and wrote rules that were fair for all. "Golden Rule!" Paula cheered. "We'll speak and play the way we'd like others to treat us." Tom raised his hand: "If someone drops the ball, we don't laugh." Jonas added: "And we ask before we take something."

Soon they were playing together—and more children joined. Where there had been silent tension, there was

laughter and helpful shouts: "Your ball!", "Nice pass!", "Thanks for waiting!" When the bell rang, Paula brought out the last slices. "Who wants to share some peace?" Many hands shot up. Paula marveled how a small gesture—a slice of bread and a kind word—could make something big happen.

That afternoon she told Mom, "You know, Jesus was right. Making peace feels like warm light in your tummy." Mom nodded. "Yes. And others can carry that light on." Paula smiled. Tomorrow she would bake again—maybe with one more little heart on top.

Memory Verse of the Week:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Sources:

Third-Last Sunday of the Church Year (Nov 9, 2025). Weekly verse: Mt 5:9; sermon text: Luke 6:27–38; further readings and details via kirchenjahr-evangelisch.de and predigttexte listings. <u>Kirchenjahr-Evangelisch+1</u>

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Ulrich Hossbach Phone (604) 566-2102

E-mail: pastor@stmarkschurch.ca

Office Phone (604) 876-4312

E-mail: office@stmarkschurch.ca 1573 E. 18th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5N 2H4

www.stmarkschurch.ca

Church for kids online: please find all stories here:



Church for Kids Paula's Peace Bread

