

Solution to the Pop Tart

Dawne Olson, a South Dakota mother of four, was preparing to give a talk on unity at her women's Bible study.

She woke up early to type out the scripture verses. She wasn't quite finished when her four children began coming downstairs asking for breakfast.

She could hear the children just around the corner in the kitchen as they rummaged through the refrigerator and cupboards for something to eat. At some point, they discovered half of a toaster pastry on the counter from the night before. They all began screaming and fighting; each claiming the half-eaten Pop Tart.

As Dawne made a couple of futile attempts to quiet them down, she finished typing the verse in Matthew 5:9 that says, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God."

Taking her cue from scripture, she hollered into the kitchen above the noise, "Would somebody please be the peacemaker?"

There was a moment's silence and then Garret, age 6, piped up, "I'll be the piece maker, Mom!"

Then to his brother and sisters, he said: "Here's a piece for you and you, and a piece for you and one piece for me."

Needless to say, Dawne had her opening illustration on unity and peace for that evening's Bible study.

We can chuckle at Garret's reaction, and how he solved the screaming and fighting, but one cannot overstate the importance of peace and unity in the work we are called to do. We cannot let personal agendas get in the way of our teamwork as we seek to provide the highest quality of care and service to our patients and residents.



And as Garret proved, each one of us has a piece of the peacekeeping effort; each has a role to play in the unity and sense of purpose we must share.

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind (1 Peter 3:8 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter