



Resource Box Preview Components

- Introduction-by Neill and Edith von Gunten
- What others are saying about *Reaching Up to God our Creator*
- Session Plans for Clubs, Sunday Morning, and Day Camp Settings
- **Session Overviews**
- Sample Session, Session 3
- Sample of picture books
- Snack List
- Thumbnails of the Seven Sacred Teachings Posters
- Samples of *Maskipiton* and *Teachings of the Sacred Tree*
- Closing Celebration Suggestions
- Downloadable Logo for use on Posters and T-shirts
- Lending and Purchasing Information

Session Overviews

Resource Box Goals

- To promote Aboriginal Sacred Teachings that reflect the wisdom of Jesus Christ.
- To foster respect and understanding among Christians by highlighting the common ground between Aboriginal Sacred Teachings and the Bible.

Resource Box Approach

The Project team approached the goals listed above by providing accessible and inviting resources about Cree and Ojibway spirituality that have been reflected on from a missional Christian perspective.

The Leader's Guide of sessions for adults, organized in a separate binder, includes:

- A selection of prayers and songs, including the Six Directional "Prayer of Thanks," by Neill von Gunten and Barbara Daniels, used regularly in the Riverton Fellowship Circle congregation and the Prayer of St Francis: The Song of Brother Sun.
- *Maskipiton, Peace Chief of the Cree*, Read the story of this Cree peace Chief and the accompanying testimony of Nicole Lea, illustrator of two books in this resource, and young woman of Christ's peace.
- Viewing the CD, "The Creator's Sacrifice," and reflecting on this representation and interpretation of Christ's passion.
- Viewing the DVD "Allan Sapp's Art: Through the Eyes of the Cree and Beyond," with the help of the Teacher's Resource Guide.
- Viewing Jo Cooper's Art Book, *The Disappearance and Resurgence of the Buffalo* for a Métis artist's interpretation of the story of the Great Plains.
- A list of additional resources for understanding and appreciating God's presence in Aboriginal Sacred Teachings.

- A copy of the five session Adult Curriculum Unit, and Leader’s Guidebook for “Walking with First Peoples,” from ***Heading for the Promised Land.*** Pathway B of the *Second Mile: A Peace Journey for Congregations*, FLR, Scottdale, Newton, Waterloo, Winnipeg, 2003. These sessions are as follows:
 1. “Seeds of Discovery” includes a biblical reflection on loving God and others, reflections on Columbus ‘discovery’, a prayer from the National Aboriginal day of prayers, and active response suggestions.
 2. “Peoples of Peace,” includes a reflection on Cheyenne Peace chiefs, a story about bitterness and forgiveness, a biblical reflection on peace, and active response suggestions.
 3. “Unraveling the Legacy,” includes biblical reflections on cross-cultural relationships, reflections on the prayer lives and the Residential Schools legacy of Aboriginal people in North America, an introduction to the Old Testament of Native America, and active response suggestions.
 4. “Who Owns the Land,” includes biblical reflections on land, reflections on treaties we have made and on the costs and benefits of northern ‘development’, and active response suggestions.
 5. “Bringing Good News,” includes the stories of Daniel and his friends, and of an Aboriginal person who wanted to be a teacher, a teaching on four directional prayer, Mennonite Central Committee’s 1992 Apology on the 500th anniversary of Columbus ‘discovery’ of the Americas, and active response suggestions.

The Leader’s guide of sessions for children and youth, organized in a separate binder, includes:

Session 1: The historical picture book *Maskipiton, Peace Chief of the Cree*.

- Opening prayer and welcome
- Reflective responses to the values in the story
- Active responses of creating value bundles with sticks, and painting contrast pictures of values (truth/falsehood, honesty/dishonesty, love/hatred and peace/war)
- Blessing circle time
- Snack suggestions

Session 2: Aboriginal Art and Artists Reach up by Expressing Faith with Symbols.

- Opening prayer and welcome.
- Art viewing of picture slides from Maskipiton and Ovide Bighetty poster
- Read and discuss “Meet the Illustrator, Nicole Lea,” the illustrator for Maskipiton and young woman of Christ’s peace
- Meet the artist, Ovide Bighetty, creator of the featured poster, “Creating a New Family,” by watching Chapter 1 of CD: The Creator’s Sacrifice
- Response activities (pick your favourite pictures, ponder the symbols, create your own in pictures or as statues)
- Introductory drumming activity
- Blessing circle time
- Snack suggestion

Session 3: *The Sacred Tree*

- Opening prayer and welcome
- 2 copies of *Teachings of the Sacred Tree*, the picture book which compares Biblical references to trees and Aboriginal Sacred Tree teachings.
- Response activities include reflecting on life through the different parts of the tree, craft options made with parts of a tree, and tree related project suggestions.
- Blessing circle time
- Snack suggestions

Session 4: **The Seven Sacred Teachings**

- Opening prayer and welcome
- 1 set of Seven Sacred Teachings posters, with related scripture texts
- Response activities include a poster “learning tour,” opportunities to share about people who reflect these values, making beaded hangings of one the seven teachings
- Blessing circle time
- Snack suggestions

Session 5: **The Medicine Wheel 1**

- Opening prayer and welcome
- Object lesson on the lopsided ball
- Introducing the medicine wheel for helping people balance the spiritual, emotional, physical and mental parts of life
- Activities include a lopsided ball game Blessing circle time
- Snack Suggestions

Session 6: **Medicine Wheel 2**

- Opening prayer and welcome
- The medicine wheel and the seven sacred teachings.
- Making personal copies of a medicine wheel.
- Wheeling around with a hoola hoop
- Making a God’s Eye (circle craft) in 4 colours
- Blessing circle time
- Snack suggestions

Additional Resources

- Appendix of suggested Songs and Prayers
- Scripture Posters
- Recommended books on Aboriginal culture and issues
- Implementation suggestions for Club, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School or Family Camp settings.
- Adaptation suggestions for use by Youth groups
- *By Sacred Waters*, CD of Native American Wood Cedar Flute music by Sakoietta’ Widrick