

International Witness Sunday 2026 Children's story

Have you ever looked at number 12 in Voices Together?

(If your congregation doesn't have a copy of Voices Together or for a colour version, show the visual from SaeJin Lee Art <https://www.saejinleeart.com/?pgid=loz411xq-e5e6f712-45b9-4fcb-8eee-edc2d5ea8846>)

This is an interesting picture. What do you see that is surprising?

(Notice the child swinging from the tree branch with bees on their face, the dinosaurs singing with the child swinging upside down on the branch, the lion and the lamb, the baby and the snake, the dog and the cat, people of all sizes, shapes and colours mixing with animals, etc.)

Why are some of these things surprising? Have you ever heard of these kinds of enemies being together? A lion and a lamb? A snake and a baby?

In the Bible, in the book of Isaiah, there are descriptions of how the world will be when God is in charge.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox. Isaiah 11: 6,7

That's all mixed up, isn't it? What about this from Isaiah 2?

In the days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
will be the highest of the mountains.
It will be lifted above the hills;
peoples will stream to it.

Then they will beat their swords into iron plows
and their spears into pruning tools.
Nation will not take up sword against nation;
they will no longer learn how to make war. Isaiah 2:2-4

People will no longer be afraid, they will no longer fight, have wars.
God will teach people from all around the world how to live together in peace.

Do you think we need to wait a long time before that happens?

Sometimes it seems that this view of the world is a long way off but when we follow Jesus, we don't need to wait for the world to look like this. We can start right now to let God teach us and to walk in God's way.

Early followers of Jesus talked about a New Creation, about the new life in Jesus being like the world starting over and following God's plan.

What do you think God's plan for the world would include? What happens when God is in charge and when people follow Jesus? (kindness, love enemies, don't fight, take care of the earth, love God, feed the hungry, etc.)

Those are all great answers! We can watch for God's New Creation today and we can live in a way that shows that God is in charge and that we are followers of Jesus, here in Canada, and around the world.

Bryan Moyer Suderman wrote a song that gives us some answers to what it looks like When God's in Charge. Let's listen to it together and you can all sing along if you know it.

<https://www.smalltallministries.com/music/recordings/gods-love-is-for-everybody/>

When God's in Charge – Bryan Moyer Suderman