

Blessing of Peace

This lesson is designed to help us understand how important the peace of God is to our lives. The peace the “we” have affects everyone around us: our wife, kids, family, friends, co-workers, church family, and even strangers that we encounter. Has someone ever entered a room with you and without that person even saying a word, you can overwhelmingly sense a spirit of rage? Likewise, you may sense God’s peace upon a person. We just want to be around a person like that. They are a joy—fun. They make you feel better. They are contagious, because God’s spirit is upon them. They settle those that even have no peace in their lives. Peace is certainly desirable to have. This lesson is designed to help us find peace, how it operates in our lives, and that:

- Peace comes from God
- Peace is something we get
- Peace is a gift that we give
- Peace heals and mends

Opening Prayer:

Icebreaker: What do you like to do to get away from the daily stress?

PEACE - completeness, soundness, welfare, peace

- 1a) completeness (in number)
- 1b) safety, soundness (in body)
- 1c) welfare, health, prosperity
- 1d) peace, quiet, tranquility, contentment
- 1e) peace, friendship
 - 1e1) of human relationships
 - 1e2) with God especially in covenant relationship
- 1f) peace (from war)
- 1g) peace (as adjective)

Peace comes from God:

Ro 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Ro 5:1 ¶ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Ro 8:6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;
7 the sinful mind is hostile to God.

Ro 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jas 3:18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Jas 4:1 ¶ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you?

2 You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

God designed the world to be a certain way. How does peace fit into it all—what seems to be its primary purpose besides just making us feel better? How do we get this peace from God (look for a few things)? What brings His peace to us—how do we get hold of it?

Peace is something we get:

Mr 5:34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Ro 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.

19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Phl 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Heb 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

What does the righteousness of God have to do with peace and joy? Discuss why peace is not permanent and something to be continuously renewed. How does peace guard our hearts and minds? How does discipline and pain connect to peace?

Peace is a gift we give:

Lu 10:5 "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.'

Lu 10:6 If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you.

Lu 24:36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Ro 12:17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Eph 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Discuss the power in the statements "Peace be to this house", or "Peace be with you." What exactly are these greetings saying? Look closely at Romans 12:17-19. What exactly does, "Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody" mean? We've discussed that it's OK to be "slow to anger" because it is a God-given emotion (anger not being rage, jealousy, hateful, etc.), under certain conditions. Anger leads us to action—it's how we react to a situation that can either be righteousness or sinfulness. Verse 18 says live at peace with everyone. Is it possible to live in peace with someone and be angry with him or her at the same time? How can peace bring unity?

Peace Heals and Mends:

Ac 15:33 After spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them.

Ro 2:9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;

10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

14 ¶ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

15 by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace,

16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

- Discuss what we can safely assume happened when the brothers in Acts 15:33 returned to the ones who sent them.
- How is peace important to us personally, and as a group?
- Everyone who has had a Ephesians 2:13-17 experience understands this passage to a degree. See if someone in your group will share their experience with peace at the moment when they were first saved.

Situational Question. When was a time when you could have been angry or even gone into a rage, but instead acted in compassion because you felt the call you to that. What was the outcome? >>>OR<<< You should have reacted in peace and you didn't. What was the outcome?

Experience Question: What keeps you from giving peace to others?

Application Question: What do you need to do in order to bring more of God's peace into your life?

Prayer: for these needs, and ministry as needed.

Alternate questions:

Icebreaker: Where is the most peaceful place that you like to go?

Situational Question. When was a time when your peace was stolen from you or you recognized that the enemy was attempting to steal it from you?

Experience Question: What is the greatest robber of peace in your own life?

Application Question: What is something that you can do to get the message of Christ to someone else this week?

Read the following Scriptures. Take five minutes to discuss the Scriptures in your group using the questions and discussion points at the bottom of the page.

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Discussion Points:

- God designed the world to be a certain way. How does peace fit into it all—what seems to be its primary purpose besides just making us feel better?
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