

Outline & Discussion Questions

Video is available online at messages.visitccc.com

Connection

Take 10-15 minutes and do a connection starter as a group. *Have you ever made something that turned out well? Describe your creation and what you liked about it.*

Cheer and Challenge

Have each person share a high and low from this past week. *How did your "I will..." statement go? Share your experience on doing your "I will..." statement from last week's study.*

Content

Read Galatians 5:22-23 - List the 9 character qualities that make up the fruit of the Spirit. These are character qualities for tough times and this week we are learning about **peace**.

The Hebrew word for peace is **shalom**, which means "nothing missing, nothing broken." This word is used to describe something that is whole, not lacking, cracked, or leaking. Someone who has this type of peace is fearless and content in their relationship with God, others and self.

- As you read the above description, do you see yourself having this kind of peace? Why or why not? Do you know someone who displays shalom peace? Share what you observe in their life.
- God can restore us so that we enter into "shalom". He grows peace inside us, where we need it the most. How do internal and external peace relate? Can you have one without the other?
- Read Matthew 5:9. Those who are known as God's children are marked by "working for peace." What does a peacemaker look like to you? Describe someone you've known who is a peacemaker.

Those who know God are able to experience His peace and carry His peace into various situations. On the other end of the spectrum, in our flesh, we can be problem-producers, stirring up conflict and tension. In some honest self-reflection, circle the words which describe you below:

- Peacemaker: selfless, giving, thankful, wishes good will, creates solutions, encourages
- Problem-producer: self-centered, creates barriers, argumentative, holds grudges, complains, gossips, says "thank you" infrequently
- Read Romans 12:18. Do you have someone in your life you find it difficult to live at peace with?
- Read Romans 12:9-21. What are some specific things from this section that speak to how you might live as a peacemaker with the person you were thinking about in the previous question?

You can have peace (shalom) in your life and be a peacemaker by grasping three truths about peace.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

What insights do the following scriptures give you about Jesus, the Prince of Peace?

Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah 32:1, 17

Isaiah 53:5

THE OFFER OF PEACE

How does the world attempt to bring peace?

Read John 14:27 and write a paraphrase of this verse.

In what way is peace related to both the mind and the heart?

THE TRANSACTION OF PEACE

A transaction is a deal made between two parties. The Lord provides a **process** for us to exchange our fears for His peace. You can experience God's peace which exceeds anything we can understand as Philippians 4:7 promises.

- Read Philippians 4:6-9 - The three steps to this exchange **process** are outlined in these verses. Look for details to each of these three parts and outline them below:

PRAY

FIX

PRACTICE

Commitment

How will you live out the truth from these passages this week? Take time to create an "I will..." statement of something you can do this week to be a **peacemaker** in your sphere of influence.

Close

Pray together and for each other.

Continue



S - Share Your Story

Read Romans 5:1 and 3:22. According to these verses, how can someone have peace with God? How would you explain this to someone who isn't a Christian as you share your salvation story with them?

Digging Deeper

1. Use the YouVersion Bible app to do the reading plan called, "Jehovah Shalom" by Tony Evans. What did you learn and can this shape your understanding of the peace God offers?

- YouVersion Bible App : <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/14697-jehovah-shalom>
- Article on the meaning of Shalom: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Shalom-meaning.html>

2. Read Psalm 4:8 - What keeps you up at night? Make list of some of the things that you think of right before going to bed. Then write the word, "**Peace**" really big over the list. Pray this verse each night while you rest and thank God for the safety and protection He provides.

3. Read these verses and make a list of things you can do to pursue peace.

Proverbs 17:14

James 1:19

Proverbs 15:1

Psalm 34:14

4. If you are able, walk thru your neighbor and pray for **peace** in your community. As you walk and pray, ask God to reveal to you how you can be one who pursues peace where you live.

Song Suggestions as you worship God:

- "It is well with my soul" by Audrey Assad
- "Be still my soul" by Kari Jobe
- "God with us" by Terrian
- "Tis' So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" by Shane & Shane
- "Symphony" by Switch