

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Peace: Philippians 4:4-12

July 26, 2020

WORSHIP

Take a moment to remind yourself why you are still meeting together during quarantine: To grow as disciples of Jesus by cultivating our relationship with God and friendship with others.

Listen to a song of worship: [Build My Life - Christie Knockles](#) or [It is Well - Kristine DeMarco](#)

Or read the following together:

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in 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. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit (Ephesians 2:13-18).

INTRODUCTION

Peace is something our world needs desperately right now. We've been through much hardship, and so many people are hurting in profound ways—physically, relationally, emotionally, financially. Many are also uncertain about the future in the midst of tremendous change. In all of this, God remains present with us and speaks to us as the Prince of Peace.

Christians can listen to him and find peace that not only meets their own needs but also enables them to give to others with supernatural generosity so that peace-making relationships are created across any barrier. The Holy Spirit makes this possible when he has control of our lives. Let's be people of the Spirit in our city, everywhere and at all times, as living announcements that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

SCRIPTURE

20 MINUTES

Read the following Scripture together. Then invite the group to respond through the questions below.

Philippians 4:4-12 New International Version (NIV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

- ▶ Peace for a Christian could be defined as “Confidence and rest in the wisdom of God over one’s own wisdom and self-reliance.” What do you see about God in these verses that could give someone confidence in God’s control over all things? Are you steadily confident in God? Why or why not?
- ▶ What makes it hard to live with peace? Consider what the text says and identify what barriers to peace you observe in yourself and those around you.
- ▶ How does the text teach us to bring together the peace of God and the trials of daily life? Share your experience (or inexperience) of this.
- ▶ Jesus is called the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). How does his life, death and resurrection speak promises of peace and exhortation to us today? (Consider Isaiah 61:1-4, Matthew 26:36-56, Matthew 28:18-20.)

GOING FURTHER THIS WEEK

Use the [Fruit of the Spirit devotional guide](#) to grow in producing the fruit of peace.

FELLOWSHIP AND PRAYER

25 MINUTES

- ▶ Pray to experience God’s wisdom through Scripture and the peace given by the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Pray that your Community Group would act as peacemakers with those they encounter every day, especially those who are different in ideology, class or ethnicity.
- ▶ Pray for God to make us peacemakers who crumble areas of division among people and cross every area of difference to do so:

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then with the Scripture discussion in mind, pray for each other and the particular needs in our city and world.

- ▶ Want to continue meditating on Scripture throughout the week? Join Virtual Noonday prayer: eastside.redeemer.com/prayer