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A M E T H O D I S T C H U R C H

Homegroup material



Peace Is
POSSIBLE

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A Colour-Full
CHRISTMAS
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I. Introductory Discussion Questions

1. What stood out for you most about the “Peace is possible” sermon?
2. Read Isaiah 26 vs 1-13 below. What stands out for you in this passage?

- **Isaiah 26 vs 1-13:**

“In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal. He humbles those who dwell on high, he lays the lofty city low; he levels it to the ground and casts it down to the dust. Feet trample it down—the feet of the oppressed, the footsteps of the poor. The path of the righteous is level; O upright One, you make the way of the righteous smooth. Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness. Though grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness; even in a land of uprightness they go on doing evil and regard not the majesty of the LORD. O LORD, your hand is lifted high, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people and be put to shame; let the fire reserved for your enemies consume them. LORD, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us. O LORD, our God, other lords besides you have ruled over us, but your name alone do we honour.”

3. What do you think it means that God keeps those who trust Him “in perfect peace”?
4. Do you think it is possible to be perfectly at peace in the world in which we live? Why?
5. In the last thousand years, only about 7% of our time on earth has been spent in a state of peace. Why do you think this is?

II. Go to the right source

1. What sources of peace have you been pursuing? What do you think will bring you peace of mind?
2. What do you think it means that Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be called the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9 vs 6)?

3. Read the passage that Jesus spoke to His disciples below. What do you think Jesus meant when He said that He does not give peace as the world gives it?

- **John 14 vs 26-31:**

“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us leave.”

4. What are the things that prevent us from going to God to find peace and rest?
5. How peaceful are you at present? Why do you think this is so?

iii. Have a steadfast mind

1. Peace is both a gift of God and a fruit of the Spirit (see below). How do you think we can go about claiming / accepting and cultivating the peace of God in our lives?

- **John 16 vs 33:**

“I have spoken these things to you so that you might have peace in Me. In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.”

- **Galatians 5 vs 22-23:**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

2. Colossians 3 vs 2 urges us to “set our minds on things above”. How do you think an eternal / Godly perspective helps cultivate peace in our lives?
3. How do we go about setting our minds on things above?
4. In order to have peace, we must train our minds. Read the Scriptures below and discuss what they reveal to you about how we can do that:

- **2 Corinthians 10 vs 4-5:**

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

- **Philippians 4 vs 6-7:**

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

5. How do you think we can learn to take our thoughts captive to Christ?
6. How do we practically learn to bring our worries and anxieties to God in prayer – and to leave them with Him – so that we may have His supernatural peace?
7. Usually a lack of peace is a result of trying to control things that are out of our control. How do you think we can choose peace, trusting that God is in control and knowing that we are not?

IV. Cultivate a heart filled with trust

1. Do you think trust in God and peace are related? Why and how?
2. Sometimes we are willing to trust God with some things, but not with everything. What do you think is holding you back from trusting God with all that you are?
3. Read Proverbs 3 vs 5-6 (Amplified below). What do you think it means to trust God in this way?

- **Proverbs 3 vs 5-6 (AMP):**

“Lean on, trust in and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know, recognise and acknowledge Him and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.”

4. Read the Scripture below and see how the Amplified Bible defines true faith. Do you think you trust God like this right now? What makes it difficult for you to trust God in this way?

- **Hebrews 10 vs 22-23 (AMP):**

“Let us come forward and draw near with true (honest and sincere) hearts in unqualified assurance and absolute conviction engendered by faith (*by that leaning of the entire human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom and goodness*), having our hearts sprinkled and purified from a guilty (evil) conscience and our bodies cleansed with pure water. So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.”

V. Call to action

1. What will we do with what we have discovered in this session?
2. How will we hold each other accountable to this?