

Peace

The Prince of Peace?

Isaiah 9:6-7 & Luke 2:8-15

- If Jesus came to give us _____, why is everything so _____?

Same Words, Different Dictionaries

- The peace we all want: *The absence of* _____ *conflict and* _____ *stress*
Isaiah 2:4/ Isaiah 11:6/ Revelation 21:4/ 2 Peter 3:9-10
- The peace we all desperately need: *Peace with* _____
Romans 3:23/ Romans 5:10/ John 14:27 & 16:33
- Peace _____ is not necessarily peace _____.
Proverbs 1:24-26/ John 3:16-19

A Christmas Response

- _____ the peace that's been _____.
Romans 6:23

A Starfish Response

- _____ that same peace to _____.
2 Corinthians 5:19-20/ Romans 12:18/ Matthew 5:9
- Here's why _____ are so desperately needed today.
Romans 1:18-32
- Here's what a peacemaker _____.
Romans 12:14-21

Peace

The Prince of Peace?

Isaiah 9:6-7 & Luke 2:8-15

- If Jesus came to give us **PEACE**, why is everything so **JACKED UP**?

Same Words, Different Dictionaries

- The peace we all want: *The absence of **EXTERNAL** conflict and **INTERNAL** stress*
Isaiah 2:4/ Isaiah 11:6/ Revelation 21:4/ 2 Peter 3:9-10
- The peace we all desperately need: *Peace with **GOD***
Romans 3:23/ Romans 5:10/ John 14:27 & 16:33
- Peace **OFFERED** is not necessarily peace **RECEIVED**.
Proverbs 1:24-26/ John 3:16-19

A Christmas Response

- **ACCEPT** the peace that's been **OFFERED**.
Romans 6:23

A Starfish Response

- **OFFER** that same peace to **OTHERS**.
2 Corinthians 5:19-20/ Romans 12:18/ Matthew 5:9
- Here's why **PEACEMAKERS** are so desperately needed today.
Romans 1:18-32
- Here's what a peacemaker **DOES**.
Romans 12:14-21

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For the week of December 13, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

1. We heard this weekend that peacemakers are desperately needed in our world. Peacemaking is not something that just happens, nor is it about constantly raising the surrender flag to get peace; rather, it's something we actively pursue. How do the following verses help us understand what pursuing peace with others looks like?

Proverbs 16:24 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴ Gracious words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Romans 12:17-21 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Galatians 6:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Colossians 3:13 New International Version (NIV)

¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Write down anything you can think of that would help you in your effort to live at peace with the people in each area below.

Family

Work

Church

Community

2. In the late 1800's, Horatio Spafford wrote the famous hymn, *It is Well with My Soul*. This was in response to the tragic loss of his daughters, who died in a shipwreck. Here is the first verse of that song:

"When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say;
It is well, it is well with my soul."

His words lead us to believe that he had found peace even in the midst of horrible circumstances. Biblical peace does not mean we have to love everything just the way it is. But it does mean we can cope with those things we most dread. How can Psalm 46:1-3 and 10-11 help us better learn to experience peace even in the hard times we'd rather bypass?

Psalm 46:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

God is our refuge and strength,

an ever-present help in trouble.

² *Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way*

and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

³ *though its waters roar and foam*

and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah

Psalm 46:10-11 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;*

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹ *The LORD Almighty is with us;*

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

3. The message of Christmas is that Jesus came as the Prince of Peace so we can all have peace with God. As followers of Jesus, we've been called to be ambassadors who offer this same peace to others. As you think about the people in your life, is there anyone you would love to see experience peace with God during this Christmas season? In addition to prayer, can you think of anything else that might help you nudge them toward the Prince of Peace?