



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: Waiting in & for Peace

Text: Isaiah 9:2-7

Theme: Jesus came to remove every source of conflict and to lead us into everlasting peace.

Teaching Notes: Our broken world is filled with things that steal our peace. Since The Fall, we have conflict with God, with others, with our environment, and even internally with our own selves. But Jesus came to reconcile us to God and to cut off conflict at its source. One day he will come again to defeat Satan once and for all, establishing eternal and perfect peace. In the meantime, we're called to abide in, experience, and share his peace by faith.

Outline:

1. What is peace?

- More than just the absence of strife, shalom is the presence of safety, harmony, wholeness, and abundance; it's a total sense of wellbeing.

2. Why is peace a challenge?

- a. Peace is elusive because sin broke – and still breaks – everything.
- b. Peace is elusive because of the cancer of comparison.
- c. Peace is elusive because we gravitate to fake solutions.

3. How do we get peace?

- a. Jesus came to reconcile us to God. (Isaiah 53:5)
- b. Jesus came to remove or reverse every source of conflict. (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- c. Jesus sent his Spirit to bear in us the fruit of peace. (Galatians 5:22)
- d. Jesus is coming again to demand peace. (Romans 16:20)

4. How do we wait in peace for the Lord's return?

- a. Seek peace. (Isaiah 26:3)
- b. Make peace. (Matthew 5:9)
- c. Publish peace. (Isaiah 52:7)



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. When are you most at peace and how would you describe the peace you experience in that instance?
2. What are the top 2-3 things that steal your peace on a regular basis?
3. What are some ways sin disrupts or robs you of peace? What kinds of conflict does sin introduce into your life?
4. What are some of the fake solutions to conflict (internal or external) you've tried? What are some reasons you tried those?
5. What are some practical implications of the objective truth that Jesus Christ has reconciled you to God? How could you intentionally live in light of that?
6. What are some sources of conflict that Jesus came to defeat or overcome?
7. Describe the relationship between your circumstances and the peace you experience. What do you observe? How could you experience greater peace?
8. What are some practical ways you could seek peace? What specific steps or habits would you need to take?
9. What hinders you from being more of a peacemaker? What are your greatest barriers to being more of a proclaimer of peace to people who need the Lord?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

Prayer Prompts:

1. Praise Jesus for coming to reconcile us to the Father, to reverse every source of conflict, and to begin making everything sad come untrue.
2. Acknowledge what's robbing you of peace right now; confess to the Lord any sinful attitudes or actions, including a lack of seeking peace in him.
3. Ask God, by his Spirit, to bear the fruit of peace in you as you abide in his love. Ask him to fill you with the boldness to be a peacemaker and one who actively shares the peace of the gospel with others.