

Dig Deeper @Home – “Hello, my Name is ...”

Complement to lesson on 08/13/23 – “The God Who Gives Peace”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. When and/or where do you feel most at peace? Why do you think that is?
2. Has there ever been a time you experienced “peace that passes understanding?” (Philippians 4:6-7)

MEMORIZE – Jeremiah 33:2-3

Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it – the LORD is his name: “Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

READ – Read Judges 6 & 7

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Judges 6:1 says that “The people of Israel did what was evil in the eyes of the Lord.” This is a repeating theme in the book of Judges, recorded happening seven times. (2:11, 3:7, 3:12, 4:1, 6:1, 10:6, 13:1) Take a quick look at each of these verses and their surrounding context...
 - a. What was the evil they did?
 - b. How did God respond?
 - c. In what ways do we fall in the same ways today?
3. Though the people did not obey God’s voice (6:7-10), when they cried out to Him, He graciously provided a deliverer in Gideon. Though he worked *through* Gideon, the Lord wanted it to be clear that it was *He* who was saving them. What are several ways He accomplished this? (Hint: 6:36-40, 7:2-8, 7:9-15, 7:22) How has God saved us, despite our failing to obey His voice? (Hint: Colossians 1:15-20) Could we have accomplished this on our own?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – *Reminders of Peace*

Oftentimes, it isn't a lack of knowing that keeps us from living into the truths we claim to believe... we just get distracted by the "cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things," like the seed sown among thorns in the Parable of the Sower. (Mark 4:1-20) In other words, sometimes life gets in the way and distracts us!

As Christians, we are called to have an inward peace that is unshaken by outside circumstances. This is often easier said than done. But God Himself IS our peace, and it is the Holy Spirit living in and through us that develops the fruit of peace in our lives!

To remind ourselves of this incredible truth, look up the below list of short Bible verses about peace and write them on slips of paper. Then hide the slips where you will stumble upon them in the next few days, weeks... or even years! Get creative, hiding them in the medicine cabinet, silverware drawer, or even the glovebox of the family vehicle.

Jehovah Shalom: The LORD Is Peace!

John 14:27 Isaiah 9:6-7 Romans 5:1-2
John 16:33 Luke 2:14 2 Thessalonians 3:16

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Tremble - <https://youtu.be/qjdGav80MGw>

Faith is a Living Power – Mennonite Hymnal #249

When Peace, Like a River – Mennonite Hymnal #576

LISTEN: Spoken – Calm the Storm - <https://youtu.be/yaimRzZUu24>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the series:

As you go this week, know that the LORD of Hosts, the God of Angel Armies goes with you. May His presence fill you with strength and courage to live for Him and His kingdom purposes where you live, work, vacation and play.