

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 03.19.2023

FINDING PEACE IN THE CHAOS – JOHN 14:27

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us “Our topic for today is peace. One definition for peace describes it as ‘the absence of war or conflict.’ Sadly, this is something our world has known little of. An article in the New York Times said out of the past 3,400 years of human history, the world has only been entirely at peace for 268 of them. That’s just 8% of recorded history. During the same span of time, more than 8,000 peace treaties were signed and subsequently broken. This led somebody to sarcastically redefine peace as ‘that brief moment in history when everyone stands around reloading.’ The lack of peace in our world isn’t due to lack of effort. Over the years, people have gone to great lengths to try to bring peace to the world. In the 60’s, during the Viet Nam War, people marched for peace, demonstrated for it, protested on behalf of it, and wrote songs about it. Despite everyone’s best efforts, peace continues to elude us. It’s not just world peace that we struggle with either. Most of us also struggle to find inner peace. The wars that rage in the world are really just a reflection of the unrest that rages within us.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from this week’s sermon?

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:26-27.**

1. Jesus said it is good for Him to leave. Why? What would the disciples gain in His physical absence?
2. What is the relationship between Jesus, truth, and the Holy Spirit? How does knowing the truth bring you the peace that Jesus described in verse 27?

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as a counselor. Counselors are objective third parties that we bring in to listen and give perspective on our experiences. They have a perspective that enables them to see things we cannot. Similarly, the Holy Spirit comes to us and gives us God’s perspective and truth. It was good for Jesus to leave because it allowed the Holy Spirit to come and teach us “all things.” The Spirit does this by reminding us of what Jesus taught, which is pure truth (John 14:6).

3. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I do not give to you as the world gives”?
4. Jesus said, “Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.” Based on these verses, how is it possible to keep from having a troubled and fearful heart when the world around you is in turmoil?
5. Can a person live a peaceful life and still not know the peace of God? Explain.

Whether they believe it comes through outward circumstances, relationships, or an inner calm, people long for peace. It’s only in relationship with the Prince of Peace, that believers can experience peace with God, the peace of God, and peace on earth, even amidst the chaos of the world around us.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ISAIAH 48:17-18**

## ***“PROMISES” in 2023***

1. From these verses, why don't people experience peace?
2. Read Isaiah 9:6 and John 3:16. What, in particular, has God commanded us to do that brings us peace?
3. Why do you think God used a river as an analogy for peace? Is peace like a river an accurate description of the peace you currently have in Christ, or would you make some other analogy? Explain.

Faith in Jesus Christ is the means by which God actively works to bring you peace in this chaotic world. In relationship with Jesus, God teaches you through His Word, through other believers, through His Spirit, through creation, and through your experiences. He leads you to deeper understanding of Himself and His eternal purposes, that you might not focus or treasure earthly things, but would set your mind on things above. When we do, He gives you His peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7).

### **Applying God's Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

How many of you know that you can be laying on a beach somewhere in Hawaii, listening to the crashing waves, reading your favorite book, holding a drink in your hand, and still have inner turmoil. The other weak point in all these approaches is they are all tied to external factors. The problem with basing your peace on external circumstances is that they are constantly changing. It's been said that 'the only constant in this life is change.' So, if you have a good job, you'll be at peace. But if you lose your job, there goes your peace. If you've got money in the bank, you'll be at peace. But when that money is gone, your peace goes with it. That's why the peace the world offers doesn't work. At its very best, it is tenuous, fragile, and unsustainable.

1. How do you know if you have peace with God?
2. Is there an area in your life where you feel you lack peace? What step can you take today to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit?
3. In what ways have you recently been reminded of the peace of God in your life? How can you be more aware of and sensitive to God's peace on a daily basis?

**PRAYER** – Thank God for the work of Christ on the cross, allowing all who trust in Him to find eternal peace. Thank Him also for the gift of His Spirit, who reminds you of truth when chaotic circumstances surround you. Thank Him for the reality of peace on earth, as you follow the lead of His Spirit in every circumstance. Invite Him to show you what it means to rest in His peace in a deeper way this week.

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, 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.” {Philippians 4:7-8}**



Picture of Peace entitled “Peace in the Midst of the Storm. At first glance, the painting looks anything but peaceful. Black clouds and lightning bolts cover the sky. Waves crash on a rocky hillside with raging waters below. How could this ever be descriptive of peace? You have to take a closer look. In a corner of the painting, there is a little bird with her nest of babies safely tucked away from the storm beneath the ledge of a rock. That's real peace. It doesn't just come from the absence of storms. It comes from knowing that you are kept safe in the midst of the storm.