

Peace
Motivated – Part 3
June 11-12, 2022

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27 (p.824)

Memory Verse: *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" Galatians 5:22–23 (p.893)*

- **I Am Motivated To Live In Peace.**

1. **Let Jesus lead.**

"The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me." Psalm 23:1-4 (p.423)

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me..." John 10:14 (p.819)

2. **Look for His provision.**

"You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings." Psalm 23:5 (p.423)

"You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume." Luke 7:46 (p.788)

3. **Live in faith.**

"Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23:6 (p.423)

"(Jesus) Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Luke 7:50 (p.788)

My Next Step This Week: _____ I will do the reading and study, Peace, from the Life Transformation Bible, (Page A56-A57) each day this week.

ONE VOICE

Discussion/Groups Guide *Motivated - Part 3 "Peace"*

Life Groups use this guide in their discussion from the Weekend Talk. This is also a discussion guide you can use with your family and friends.

Conversation Starters

- Do you remember homonyms from English class? They are words that sound the same but don't mean the same thing. Peace is a homonym for piece. What are some other homonyms you can think of?
- What is peace? Is it the absence of conflict? Is it normalized relations among civil entities? Is it both and more? Talk about our culture's perceptions of and desires for peace.
- When do you experience peace? For a nature lover, it might mean a campsite in the middle of nowhere. For a runner, it might mean taking a long run in the park. For a parent, it might mean locking herself in the bathroom for 15 minutes! How about you?

Quick Review

Looking back at your Weekend Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out to you, challenged you, or maybe even confused you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and Bible verses from the Talk Notes.

Our One Thing: I Am Motivated To Live In Peace.

Series Memory Verse: Galatians 5:22-23 (p.893)

- See also Galatians 5:19-20 (p.893) for a stark contrast to what the Holy Spirit produces in the life of a Follower of Jesus.

One Voice Bible Story Background: Psalm 23 (p.423); John 14:27 (p.824)

- Have you ever heard this Psalm read at a funeral? Why is it such a popular memorial service component? Is a time of loss the only time when we need peace?

- Would you say our world is a peaceful one? Talk about your response.
- What gift did Jesus promise? Talk about this quote from Roy Lessin, *“Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of Jesus.”*

This week our discussion is focused on three lessons we can learn from Psalm 23:

1. Let Jesus lead. Psalm 23:1-4 (p.423); John 10:14 (p.819)

- Do you find this difficult? When do you have the most trouble “letting go and letting God?”
- When did you first truly surrender to following Jesus instead of yourself?
- Sheep are pretty helpless without their shepherd. When has God helped you?
- When have you gotten off the “right path”, but God helped you get back?

2. Look for His provision. Psalm 23:5 (p.423); Luke 7:46 (p.788)

- When you feel “needy” do you typically also feel peaceful?
- How has God provided for you or your family?
- The custom of anointing one’s head with oil was an image of a gracious host welcoming someone into their home – it was refreshing and restorative. This is what Jesus is talking about in Luke 7 – it was a picture of a response of love and gratefulness.
- When have you sensed the refreshment of anointing from God? Do you ever think back to those times and thank Him?

3. Live in faith. Psalm 23:6 (p.423); Luke 7:50 (p.788)

- David, the Psalmist, is stating his faith in his future when he is living under the peace and provision God provides. He speaks of living in the “house” of the Lord. Now God lives in His Followers through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Talk about that. What difference does it make to you that God lives in you?
- The woman in Luke 7 welcomed and anointed Jesus. He sent her in peace. How have you experienced the peace of God because you were living in obedience to Him? What about the opposite? When have you missed His peace because you were not obedient?
- What does it mean to have God pursue you with His love and goodness?
- Read Psalm 23 together out loud. Don’t rush. Savor every part of it as you worship the Lord through reading His word back to Him.

Digging Deeper

David wrote Psalm 23. He was a shepherd long before he became a king. This is a very personal Psalm and was possibly written towards the end of David’s life. Despite his great sins of adultery, deceit, and murder. He repented and was restored by God (Psalm 51 p.436). We can take comfort in this because God forgives our sins through

Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. God gives us peace through the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6 (p.523).

Still, it was Solomon who God wanted to build His Temple because, despite everything, David's reign was not peaceful (1 Chronicles 28: 2-3 p.331). David was forgiven but his sin still had consequences.

Jesus tells us *God blesses those who work for peace for they will be called the children of God* (Matthew 5:9 p.736). Working for peace is one thing but being at peace with others is another.

Read Matthew 5:23-24 (p.436) and Romans 12:18 (p.866) and ask God how you can work towards creating peace with others. Perhaps share your concerns and thoughts with your Life Group and ask them to pray.

Next Step

My Next Step This Week:

_____ I will do the reading and study, Peace, from the Life Transformation Bible, (Page A56-A57) each day this week.

Life Transformation Bible Daily Reading this Week: Peace (p.A56-57)