

Discussion Guide
Peace: wk1 Peace with God
June 4, 2023



Big Idea

We can have peace with God.



Icebreaker

Summer is almost here (lately it feels like it is here!). Do you have any favorite summer hobbies or activities? How about any special summer 2023 plans? Share.



Discussion Questions

1. Amidst Paul's Holy Spirit led description of what love in action looks like, we find Romans 12:18. This passage was the catalyst of this series on peace. Read Romans 12:18. How does God seem to feel about peace? Why do you think it is so important to His heart? What does this tell you about God? Is that personally encouraging to you and if so, how?
2. True peace is something far more & different than simply the absence of conflict. With that said, many people go through life creating warped or lesser forms of peace with others that can end up being damaging in the long run. What are some examples of warped or lesser forms of peace? Share the experience you may have with a lesser form of peace. Where does true peace come from & where must it begin in our own lives?
3. Read Romans 5:1-2. From a legal and/or theological standpoint, what does it mean to be justified or what has been declared about us via justification? Theologically, per these verses, what can (and are) we meant to have with God based on our justification? How does one receive this spiritual justification?
4. Read Romans 5:6-8. Talk about the word "powerless" from this passage...in the context of what we are discussing, what are we powerless to do or achieve? Read Romans 5:9-11. What are some things over time that you have realized you are powerless over, but that God is able to have power over?
5. Read Mark 2:3-12. What is the far greater need of the man (and all) than physical healing that Jesus identifies here? In this account, Jesus shows us that he has the authority over two particular things, what are they? Over which one is His authority more impactful and/or long-reaching? Is there a physical or relational healing that you have been obsessed with to the point that it has overshadowed His greater blessing of you (the forgiveness of your sin & thus eternal security)?



Concluding Question

Have you been trying to achieve peace with God through your efforts...OR...have your efforts (a.k.a. your ways of living and loving both God and others) been positively impacted in response to the grace extended to you by Him? Remember this is a grace to be received by us through faith, that results in our justification, forgiveness, and thus peace with God.



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer The changing of patterns within households can be stressful! This happens, often, when school gets out and summer is upon us, necessitating a whole new rhythm of life. Pray for all in this, and any, season of change and busyness that peace can win and reign! In that, let HIM be glorified!

