

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – July 26, 2020

Theme: The Certainty of God's Word

Topic: God's Promise of Peace.

Main Text: Philippians 4:1-9; John 14: 25-31

Key verse: John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The peace of God is a recurring theme in the Bible. The Hebrew word for peace is shalom and is a popular greeting among the Jews. When someone says, "Shalom", he or she is saying, "Peace unto you." It does not mean, "I hope you don't get into any trouble"; it means, "I hope you have all the highest good coming your way." Interestingly, Shalom is also one of the names of God. God first introduced His name "Shalom" to us in Judges 6:19-24 when Gideon feared for his life for coming face to face with God. So, God said to Gideon, "*Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die*" (Judges 6:23b). Jesus is also introduced as The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

1. (a) What is the difference between the peace of the world and the Peace God Gives? (b) Knowing that God's promise of peace is an offer of Himself, how does that help you in understanding and appreciating God's promise of peace? (c) Why do you think we need this attribute of God?

So, God's promise of peace is an offer of Himself in a way which removes dread of any kind! Having God's peace is critical for life and living. No wonder that as Jesus was wrapping up things with His disciples, He says to them "*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*" (John 14:27 NKJV). In a significant time in Gideon's life, God offered Himself (Peace) to Gideon. Jesus does the same to His disciples. In fact, Ephesians 6:15 refers to the good news about Jesus as the '*gospel of peace*'. The Apostles and early disciples echoed that theme 'the peace of God' or 'the God of peace' all over the New Testament.

2. (a) What do you think are the major causes of worry and fear in the Church or society today? (b) How does Romans 5:1 and Hebrews 12:18-24 help you understand what should be our major cause for dread? (c) In the light of this, how should we understand God's promise of peace?

In a most critical time in their lives, Jesus did not offer His disciples safety from the religious rulers or the occupying Roman government. Instead He offers them His peace. While introducing the purpose for his letter to the Philippians, Apostle Paul said "*For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.*" (Philippians 1:10 NLT) A person who has overcome death has nothing else to fear. God's wrath is the greatest dread any human should have, and He has removed that dread from us. So, it will be inappropriate for believers to now allow anything to cause us anxiety. Jesus says, His peace is not like the peace of the world. The only peace this world can give is shallow and unfulfilling. If believers do not understand what really matters, we will hardly live in the peace God offers.

3. (a) Why does Paul place such an emphasis on the believer's mind in addressing our need to live in God's peace? (Phil. 1:27, 2:2, 2:5, 3:19, 4:8)? (b) What are some indications that we are living or not living in God's peace? E.g. Philippians 4: 2-9? (c) According to Philippians 4:4-9, what can help a believer live in God's peace?

Prayer: *Father, we thank you for giving us Your peace through your Son Jesus. May Your peace daily guard our hearts and minds by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.*