



STUDY GUIDE

MY NAME IS GOD: Week 7 3.23.14

[WARM-UP]

What was the best thing that happened to you this past week? What about this past week is a cause for celebration?

Describe a time in your life when you felt a great sense of peace.

What was the biggest challenge you faced this past week?

Did you have peace as you faced the challenge?

[DIGGING DEEPER]

Have everyone in the LifeGroup take 1 or 2 minutes and write down how they would complete this sentence: "Peace is..." Now, use a whiteboard or poster paper to record everyone's answers.

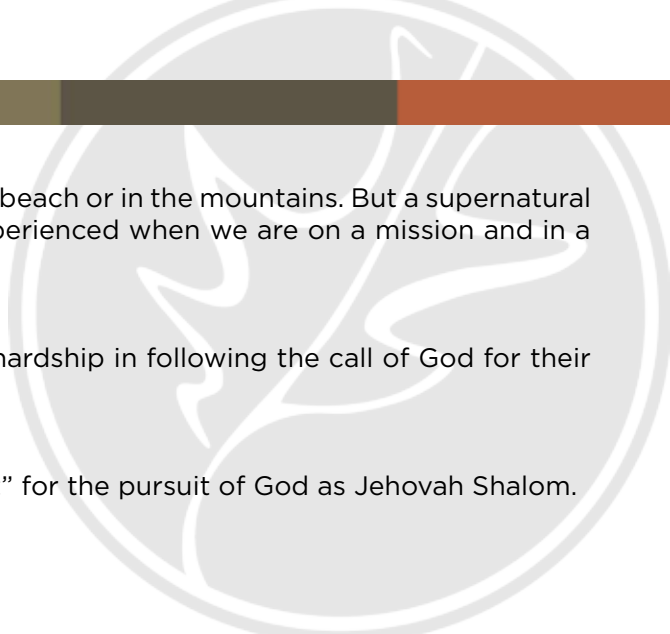

Read the following: The Bible teaches us about 1) the upward aspect of peace – peace with God, 2) the inward aspect of peace – the peace of God, and 3) the outward aspect of peace – peace in relationships with the people of God. Discuss: How do these three aspects of peace connect and interrelate to one another?

Read Judges 6:11-24. What are several reasons why Gideon's upward peace may have been missing or compromised? How about his inward peace? How about his outward peace? How might this lack of peace have affected his confidence as a Beloved Child?

(Note: In Judges 6 Gideon is called to go on a mission by "the angel of the Lord." In the OT the angel of the Lord appears in Genesis 16:7-12; 21:17-18; 22:11-18; Exodus 3:2; Judges 2:1-4; 5:23; 6:11-24; 13:3-22; II Samuel 24:16; and Zechariah 1:12; 3:1; 12:8. The appearances of the angel of the Lord stop after the birth of Jesus. It is possible, even probable, that appearance of the angel of the Lord was what theologians call a Christophany – a manifestation of the second Person of the Godhead before His incarnation.)

The word for peace in Judges 6:24 is the Hebrew word "shalom." It could be translated "completeness," "soundness," "wholeness," "welfare," "safety," as well as "peace." How does a more comprehensive understanding of this word "shalom" as part of our New Life in Christ help you understand the Judges 6 story better?

In this past weekend's message, we heard that peace does not come from the absence of crisis but from the Presence of Christ. How does the Judges 6 story illustrate that truth? Are there other Bible stories that illustrate this truth?



“Anyone can experience a natural peace when on a vacation on a beach or in the mountains. But a supernatural peace (that passes all understanding) can best be seen and experienced when we are on a mission and in a crisis.” Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

Tell a story about someone you know who faced difficulty and hardship in following the call of God for their lives yet experienced the Presence and Peace of God.

Now, look up the following verses and create a kind of “checklist” for the pursuit of God as Jehovah Shalom.

Isaiah 26:3
Isaiah 48:18
John 14:27
John 16:33
Romans 5:1
Galatians 5:22
Philippians 4:6-7
Colossians 3:15

Which of the “checkpoints” you listed above do you need most in your life?

(Here are some additional important verses on the topic of vertical, inward, or outward peace: Isaiah 53:5, Psalm 29:11, James 3:17-18, 1 Peter 3:10-11, Romans 15:13, Ephesians 2:14-17, Ephesians 4:1-3, Isaiah 9:6-7, John 20:21, Luke 2:14.)

[LIVING IT OUT]

What worries you and steals your peace most these days?

Share with 1 or 2 people seated close to you what you will take away from this lesson. What are 1 or 2 things you will do with what you’ve just heard? What are 1 or 2 things that you will do differently based on the truth that has just been shared?

Discuss the connection between God’s peace and Gideon’s acceptance of his mission in Judges 6. See John 20:21 for a similar connection. What might God be calling you to do as a Missionary for Him that you have been resisting and, therefore, losing His peace?

As you close your time in prayer, spend time praising God with the names of God we have studied so far. Thank Him that you are His Beloved Child who can know Him as Jehovah Shalom. Ask Him to display His peace through you especially in a crisis. Ask Him to help you hear and heed His call to live as a Missionary who invites others to New Life in Christ.