LIFE GROUP - WEEK NINE

Enjoying God's Peace — Philippians 4:4-9

This Fall, our sermon series is a deep dive into one of our core values as a church: enjoying God. Each week, we will focus on a different attribute of God and discover how we can go beyond knowing about God intellectually and begin to enjoy God relationally.

SERMON RECAP

Throughout the Bible, God promises to give his people peace.And throughout the Bible, God's people struggle to enjoy the peace of God.

The same is true for us. God promises us his peace, but we lack peace in our hearts and minds, our relationships, our communities, our nation... And in our desperation for peace we often reach for counterfeit peace instead of resting in the peace of God.

The invitation is simple: stop and enjoy God's peace. Will you receive it?

GETTING STARTED

Ice Breaker: What is your favorite cheesy joke?

Go Deeper: Do you have a place (a chair, a trail, a room...) where you feel most as peace in the world?

REMINDER

These guides are meant to facilitate PRESENCE - to God and one another - not to check boxes. Feel free to let conversation naturally flow to whichever questions connect with you personally. As the Spirit leads you, feel free to set aside this guide to pause, praise, and pray together.

Our discipleship to Jesus is meant to be a holistic way of living, involving our whole selves - head, heart, and hands. While each person will likely gravitate to one of these over the others, it's important we all consider how God's love affects our minds, our hearts, and our actions.

HEAD

Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep the mind that is dependent on you in perfect peace, for it is trusting in you."

What does it mean to have a "mind that is dependent on God?"

Where do you need to experience God's peace in your life right now?
Consider different areas of life: your thought life, family, friendships, community, workplace, school, etc.

HEART

What counted as peace in your family growing up? How has that influenced how you pursue peace today?

What form of counterfeit peace are you tempted to settle for?
(Conflict avoidance, material comfort, superficial agreement, digital escapism, self determination, political power)

HANDS

How easy or difficult is it for you to stop and rest in God's peace? If it's difficult, why? If it's easy, has that always been the case?

One of the ways we can enjoy God's peace is to stop and think. Look at the list Paul gives in Philippians 4:8. Stop right now and "think about those things." Name them out loud.

PRAY TOGETHER

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Close your discussion with a time of prayer, making your requests known to God with thanksgiving.