



Not the World's Peace

BY SARA GIFFORD

Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You came to earth to give us peace. Work in our hearts as we reflect on the peace You give us here on earth and for eternity in heaven. In Your name we pray, Amen.

We long for peace in our hearts, homes, communities, and in the world. What exactly is peace? A feeling of calm? Something deeper? Scripture teaches that true peace is more than the absence of conflict — it is the presence of God's gracious work through Jesus Christ.

Perhaps you've heard "peace" translated into the Hebrew word *shalom*. *Shalom* is peace; *Shalom* means restoration. Because of sin, we are separated from God. Restoration is exactly what we need.

Read **John 14:27**. Discuss the difference between the world's idea of peace and the peace Jesus describes here. _____

How does knowing *shalom* means "restoration" change the way you think about peace? _____

If true peace is restoration — where does that restoration begin? _____

The Bible is clear: it starts with God Himself. The root of all human unrest is sin. By nature, humanity is in rebellion against God. Sin brings separation, guilt, and conflict. But the Good News of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ has come to reconcile sinners to God.

Read Romans 5:1. Justified is a legal term meaning “declared righteous.” It’s not something we achieve; it’s given by grace through faith. Why is peace with God the foundation for all other peace? _____

How does knowing your peace is based on Christ’s work help during seasons of doubt? _____

What about when life is anything but peaceful — when trials hit hard and fears start crowding in? God does not leave His people to face those moments alone. He gives a peace that surpasses understanding. _____

Consider the meaning of the word “guards” as found in **Philippians 4:6-7**. What does it mean that God’s peace “guards” our hearts and minds? _____

How can prayer bring peace during trials? _____

After reading **2 Corinthians 13:11**, discuss with your group what “living in peace” looks like in everyday life. _____

Spend some time considering this question: In your home, church, or workplace, where is God calling you to pursue peace right now? _____

Revelation 21:4 gives a glimpse of God’s peace. How does the promise of eternal peace give hope right now? _____

How should the reality of future peace shape how we live today? _____

True peace is found only in Jesus. It is a gift of God, received through faith, grounded in the cross, and nourished by the Word and Sacraments. This peace strengthens us in the present, shapes how we live with others, and fills us with hope for what is to come.

As you close, take time in prayer for guidance on what you can do this week to live more fully in Christ’s peace. _____

Closing Hymn: “There Is a Redeemer” (*LSB 971*).

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