

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

ADVENT: PEACE - 12/08/2024

COMMUNION

- At some point during your gathering, take communion together.
- Read a Scripture about peace in Christ or use Romans 5:1
- spend a moment in silence to experience the presence of Christ

REVIEW

- The Hebrew word in the Bible for peace is shalom
- Shalom is more than the absence of conflict, it is the presence of something better in its place. Shalom means wholeness or to be complete
- Shalom is the presence of harmony and order and beauty where everything is working the way it is supposed to work - in our relationships, our finances, our health, our communities
- 3 enemies of the soul: the world, the flesh and the devil. The devil speaks lies that appeal to our disordered desires (which are often normalized by the culture we live in).
- When we believe lies, it undermines our relationship with God, with ourself and with others
- Jesus said the truth will set us free (John 8:32)
- peace comes when we trust Jesus completely
- With the peace of God we can become peace-makers. The way of peace according to Jesus is humilty, confession, repentance, forgiveness and self sacrificial love\
- Though His death on the cross, Jesus has made peace (between us and God and between humans).

DISCUSSION

1. How has your time been since our last gathering? How did you see God at work in you or around you?

Read: 1 Peter 1:3, Titus 2:13

2. What stood out to you from this week's teaching?
3. Through Jesus' incarnation and the Holy Spirit's indwelling, we have access to God's peace. Where have you encountered His peace? How would you describe it?
4. Where are you still missing peace and still need to experience greater peace that's on offer through God's presence?
5. How does the death of Jesus create peace with God and with each other?