

- + When is the time in your life that you have asked God for peace what was going on around you?

If the Fruit of the Spirit are to be markers of those rooted in Christ... How can we model peace in a world that is angry and divided?

- + Do you think Jesus had peace during the passion week?

How does Jesus' peace differ from the peace that the world offers us?

- + How can we apply Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God" into our daily lives and conflicts?
- + Around Christmas time we hear the phrase Jesus is the prince of peace. What do you think this title means?
- + Who is someone in scripture that stands out to you besides Jesus for their attitude of peace?

GROWTH:

JOURNAL PROMPT

God, help me to live intentionally this fall as I learn more about your Holy Spirit and the attributes of a life rooted in you. Nourish me through my study of your word, community with my small group, and worship in church. Show me clearly the tasks, relationships, and work to which you are calling me. Amen.

CALLING PROMPT

God is inviting you to participate in his ministry by answering the unique call on your life. How can you actively respond to scripture and God's presence this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

Let's prepare for the week ahead, shaped by our time together today.

Gracious God, we trust that you go with us in the week ahead. We are changed each time we gather to learn more about you and your Word. Please give us boldness to proclaim your good news in the coming week and bring us back safely together again in this community. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, help us to feel your presence during our gathering as a community today. As we do life together and learn more of your Word, help us to grow in faith. Help our time to be fruitful and the fellowship within our group to flourish. Thank you for the gift of today and of this small group study. Amen.

COMMUNITY

Time to build relationships: mix + mingle!

- + What specific point resonated with you from the weekend's sermon?
- + If you couldn't attend, ask others in your group what stood out to them. (Note: Links to both video and audio versions of previous sermons can be found at <https://standrewmethodist.org/worship/sermons/>)
- + Where did you see God's presence in your past weekend?

VIDEO – WEEK 3: PEACE
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE NOTES

SCRIPTURE

A great starting place is always in God’s word. This week we are in:

JOHN 14:15-27

15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[c] in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

JOHN 16:33

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

MATTHEW 14:22-33

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

29 “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

SITUATION

Peace is unique. It is not something that can be calculated or achieved by working extra hours or checking items off a to-do list. Often in scripture, peace is compared to chaos... and we all can see that this world has plenty of chaotic, stress inducing opportunities.

So how do we “get peace”? Like all nine varieties of the fruit of the spirit, peace is a gift which originates from God and is given by God. As apprentices of Christ, we are called to model after his peace, even in the seemingly impossible moments. In the gospels we see that Jesus is composed, poised, and confident. It is from this stance that he teaches his disciples about the peace that comes from God and how it is unlike any peace that can be found in this world (John 14).

QUESTIONS:

How do you recognize “a person of peace”... what qualities do you think a person of peace exhibits?

- + Is there a correlation between love, forgiveness, and peace?
- + Who in your life would you describe as a “person of peace”?

What pockets of this world, or settings in your everyday life, bring you peace?

- + Is having peace something active or passive?