

Discussion Questions Set #1

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. How would you define the word "peace"?
2. What kinds of things tend to threaten peace in people's lives? What things disrupt peace in your life?
3. On a scale of 1 to 100, what number would you choose as your present experience of peace?
4. How does our view of God, and who He is, affect our ability to have peace in our lives?
5. Have you ever been anxious about a circumstance or situation that looking back at now you can see the goodness of God in what He was allowing to happen? Care to share that story?

Discussion Questions Set #2

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" (Luke 2:14)

"[He] will extend peace to [Israel] like a river ..." (Isaiah 66:12)

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace ..." (Micah 5:2-5)

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

1. When you think of peace and Christmas, how are these ideas linked in your understanding?
2. How does the idea of the peace of God being like a river help you better understand or explain this peace?
3. Discuss the significance to you of each description of peace:
 - the peace of God is a refreshing peace (consistent, not stagnant, exerting a force)
 - the peace of God is a great peace
 - the peace of God is found in a person (Jesus Christ)

Discussion Questions Set #3

"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 14:27)

"As far as it depends on us, live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:18)

"Make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." (Romans 14:19)

"[God] will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in [Him]". (Isaiah 26:3)

"The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

1. How central to the life of God's people ought the pursuit of peace be? In your experience, on a scale of 1 – 10, how focussed in the pursuit of peace is the church?
2. What does it mean to you that the peace of God can be described as beyond compare, beyond comprehension and beyond circumstance? How might this differ from the peace touted in our culture?
3. In service, we came up with a list of a few ways for us to practice peace as a people. As a H2H group, discuss what kinds of practical steps you might take to become a people of peace.
4. How would we, as a community of believers, walking in the peace of God, demonstrate the Kingdom of God to the world around us?