



STUDY GUIDE October 1, 2023

Message Series: Side By Side
Message Title: Cultivating Peace
Teaching Pastor: Elijah Schiarelli

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

Have you ever tried to talk your way out of a ticket?

Pray:

Dear Lord, we praise You for the very breath in our lungs. We know that apart from You, we would not have one single heartbeat - we exist solely because You created us and breathed life into us. Help us to live this life well by following You. Help us to focus on You and to seek You with all our heart knowing we will find You when we do. Thank You in advance for everything You are going to show us about who You are and how You are at work in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

- Describe something that easily brings you peace?
- Where are you lacking peace in your life?
- When it comes to your conflict resolution style, are you more of an ostrich or a bull? (Do you typically try to avoid it, or do you tackle it head on?) Share an example from your life.

"Peace isn't something that happens by avoiding conflict - it's the prize found at the end of resolving conflict." - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Listen carefully to the verses about to be read and be ready to share the part that personally stands out the most to you.

Read Romans 12:9-18.

- Share the highlighted phrase and why it impacted you.
- Describe a situation where you had to live at peace with someone who was difficult.

Read Matthew 5:23-24.

"Built in is the implication that not every situation is going to lead to peace. You and I can only do so much to make it happen, but the important thing is that we do everything within our power to do so. That's what living side by side at peace with everyone looks like: being willing to engage in the conflict with those around us so that we can all take hold of peace. Even when we've exhausted all of our options and spent all of our energy trying to create peace in our relationships without the results, even there, we can feel at peace that we did what we could."

- Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Watch and Discuss Video (running time 8 minutes, 15 minute discussion)

Pastor Ellis Hopson shared the story of the prophet Nathan confronting David with his sin against Uriah.

Read 2 Samuel 12:1-10 & Psalm 51:12.

- How does David ask God to help him deal with his sin?
- How is it possible that peace can come out of this terrible situation?
- Have you experienced a crucial conversation with someone with which you were seeking peace? What came of it?

Reflect and Commit: (15 min.)

Read John 14:27.

- Is there anything in your life right now that is causing you to not have peace?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:11.

- How can you help increase peace in the lives of others? Who can you reach out to, to give a little encouragement?

“So, without knowing every scenario you may be facing, let me ask the question: have you engaged in the conflicts? Have you put in the work to make things right between you and those you live with, work with, or hang out with? If you haven’t, if I haven’t, then today is the day we need to start. Remember, peace is a gift that already rests inside you, given to you by Jesus, who paid for it with His life on the cross two thousand years ago. It’s not something you have to earn or pay for - followers of Jesus get it freely. But, like almost every gift God gives us, it must be practiced, used, worked on, and shared with others if we are to really feel it in our lives and our world.” Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.
The Lord be with you all. **2 Thessalonians 3:16**

Pray:

Lord, You are Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and **Prince of Peace**. Thank You that *Your* peace is a gift that You give to us as one of Your beloved followers. Lord, we know that we also have a part in living this out, so give us discernment as to what that looks like in our lives. And if there is something that You are asking us to do to restore peace to a particular relationship, show us what that is and give us the courage to follow through. We love You and praise You. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.