

The God of Peace

November 1st, 2026

Big Idea: Jesus offers us more than the absence of conflict. He gives us His peace—shalom—a deep wholeness rooted in His presence, even when life is uncertain.

LEAN IN

We often think of peace as life finally slowing down, problems going away, or conflict coming to an end. But Jesus offers a peace that can remain even when life is difficult.

- When you hear the word peace, what comes to mind? What circumstances make you feel most at peace?
- Can you share a time when you experienced peace in the middle of a difficult season, rather than after the situation was resolved?

LOOK UP

Read John 14:15–27.

Jesus speaks these words to His disciples as He prepares them for His departure. They are facing uncertainty, but Jesus promises the Holy Spirit and a peace unlike anything the world can give.

Observation — What does the text say?

- What do you notice about Jesus' promises to His disciples in this passage?
- What does Jesus say about the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of His followers?
- In verses 25–27, what does Jesus tell His disciples not to do? What does He promise to give them?
- What stands out to you about the difference between Jesus' peace and the peace the world offers?

Interpretation — What does the passage mean?

- What do you learn about God's character through Jesus' promise of peace?
- What do you learn about humanity from Jesus' encouragement not to let our hearts be troubled or afraid?
- Why do you think Jesus offers peace to His disciples before their circumstances become more difficult?
- How does understanding biblical shalom as wholeness, completeness, and flourishing deepen your understanding of the peace Jesus promises?

Application — What is our response?

- How are you encouraged, challenged, or convicted by this passage?
- What would it look like to trust Jesus' presence and promises instead of waiting for your circumstances to change?
- Where in your life are you experiencing anxiety, conflict, or a sense of brokenness that you need to bring to Jesus?
- What is one practical way you can depend on the Holy Spirit to experience Christ's peace this week?

REFLECT

God's peace is not simply the absence of trouble; it is the presence of God restoring and sustaining us in the middle of life. We receive His peace so that we can live from His wholeness rather than being controlled by our circumstances.

1. Read Philippians 4:6–9. What does Paul invite us to do when anxiety begins to take hold? Which part of this practice do you most need to embrace right now?
2. Read Colossians 3:15. What might it look like to let the peace of Christ rule in your heart, your relationships, and your decisions? Where is God inviting you to move from simply seeking peace to becoming a person who carries His peace?

Additional Scripture

- John 14:15–27 — Jesus promises the Holy Spirit and His peace.
- Philippians 4:6–9 — Bringing our anxieties to God through prayer and allowing His peace to guard our hearts and minds.
- Colossians 3:15 — Letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

PRAYER

Take a few moments to pray together. Invite everyone to share briefly, if comfortable, where they need God's peace.

- Receive: Jesus, thank You that Your peace is a gift, not something I have to earn. Help me rest in Your presence.
- Surrender: Holy Spirit, reveal the anxieties, fears, and broken places I have been trying to manage on my own. Help me trust You with what I cannot control.
- Restore: Father, bring Your shalom into my heart, relationships, and circumstances. Make me whole in Your presence.
- Carry: Jesus, help me become a person who brings Your peace into my home, workplace, friendships, and community.

Close by praying for one another by name, asking God to make His peace real in each person's life this week.

STEP OUT

Choose one or two ways to put this message into practice this week:

1. **Practice the pause:** Set aside five minutes each day this week to be still before God. Name your anxieties, surrender what you cannot control, and remember Jesus' promise in John 14:27: His peace is a gift you can receive.
2. **Become a peacemaker:** Identify one relationship where you can take a step toward peace. This might mean initiating a conversation, offering forgiveness, listening before responding, or taking responsibility for your part in a conflict.
3. **Pursue wholeness in community:** Invite a trusted friend, your small group, or a spiritual coach to pray with you about an area of life where you need God's restoration. You do not have to pursue healing alone.