



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Four Gifts*

Scripture: *Isaiah 9:6, 26:1-8*

Date: December 7-8, 2019

Message: *The Gift of Peace*

—[LET'S START]—

What do you think about when you hear the word, "peace?" When you need some peace in your life, where do you go, what do you do? Is there a place that you have been that instantly brings to mind the word, "peace?"

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work. Pray for the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. In this week's message, Pastor Dale said, "I need to recognize that only I can be responsible for peace in my own life. It doesn't depend on others or my circumstances." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?
3. The Hebrew and Greek words for peace mean "to complete or make whole." How does peace complete us or make us whole?
4. Read Isaiah 26:3-4. What do these verses teach us about the source of our peace? How have you experienced these verses to be true in your life? Why can it be difficult to live out these principles in our day-to-day lives?
5. What do the following verses teach us about the God in whom we can place our trust?
 - Hebrews 6:18
 - 2 Timothy 2:13
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20
 - Romans 8:28
 - Ephesians 1:11
6. What do the following verses teach us about peace?
 - Romans 5:1
 - Philippians 4:6-7
 - Ephesians 2:14
 - Psalm 37:37
 - Isaiah 26:3-4

—[LET'S ACT]—

Let's face it, sometimes it can be difficult to find peace in this world. We need God. We need each other. And, we need to recognize our responsibility to be people of peace. Let's pray that God would help us live out biblical *Shalom* (the Hebrew word for peace). Let's pray that we would pursue the completeness or wholeness that God wants to produce in and through us.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- There is not a peaceful place on earth. It hasn't been since human beings rebelled against our Creator God. There are many ways we struggle to find lasting peace:
 - We struggle in our marriages.
 - We struggle in our families and with our children.
 - We struggle in our friendships.
 - We struggle in our relationships at work, in the neighborhood and even in church.
 - We struggle with peace mentally, emotionally, and even spiritually.
- There is no amount of money, education, politics, therapy or even religion that will ultimately still the mind and calm the heart in a lasting way.
- If peace is merely a human endeavor it is impossible, but with God all things are possible, even peace!
- In order to experience God's peace we have to recognize that it begins with us!
- We tend to believe that the solution to achieving peace in our lives and in our world depends on others. As long as we finger point there will be no peace in our lives.
- I need to recognize that only I can be responsible for peace in my own life. It doesn't depend on others or my circumstances!
- The Hebrew and Greek words for peace mean to complete or make whole.
- If we are to ever know lasting peace in our lives, relationships and the world around us we need to let God do His work in and through us. That means we need to: Trust God as the only true source of perfect peace.
- The only way to know peace personally and publicly then is to invite God to put us back together the way He intended us to be and to keep our fingers out of the way! He already knows how and which pieces fit together the best.
- We experience peace in our lives to the degree that we trust God with our lives!
- We experience peace in our lives when we realize how entirely redeemed we are!
- We experience peace by realizing what is awaiting us when we finally see Jesus!

—[NOTES]—
