



PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE

DECEMBER 9, 2018

TAKEAWAY:

God provided peace both now and forever through Jesus Christ.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

In seeking to understand the biblical and spiritual distinctions between peace and conflict, we must recognize that the source of conflict is sin and the possibility of peace is only found in Christ.

GOSPEL CONNECTION:

Christians have peace with God as an objective reality through Jesus Christ. As we submit to God the things that threaten our experience of this peace, He is faithful to guard us and remind us of this reality (Philippians 4:4-7).

INTRODUCTION

- 1 All religions envision a future that is characterized by peace, not conflict. Why do you think people of all faiths and all cultures long for peace?
- 2 According to the Bible, how is peace possible?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

> Read Genesis 3:1-13.

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- What shattered the peace that reigned in the garden?
- How did sin destroy the peace that mankind enjoyed before the events of Genesis 3?
- The Old Testament makes reference to God's people having peace with Him. How were those living before the time of Christ able to have peace with God?

> Read Luke 2:25-35.

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

- How would Jesus restore true peace between God and man?
- Was Paul referring to a subjective feeling of peace in our hearts, or an objective state of peace between two former enemies?
- In Acts 10:36 Peter said, "telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ." Why is it important to recognize Jesus as the only means of true peace with God?

> Read Luke 2:8-14.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,* 14 *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”*

- How does the subjective feeling of peace relate to the objective peace of God through Christ?
- Look at Isaiah 26:3 and Philippians 4:6-7. What do these passages teach us about walking in subjective peace?

APPLICATION

- 1 Do you currently have peace? If not, why do you think peace eludes you?
- 2 How can you further seek to understand the objective peace that Christ has won for you?
- 3 How does the peace described in these passages differ from the peace of the world? How might this kind of peace provide opportunity to share the gospel with others?

THIS WEEK

- Memorize Luke 2:29-32.
- Read Luke 1:26-38 on Monday.
- Read Luke 1:39-45 on Tuesday.
- Read Luke 1:46-56 on Wednesday.
- Read Luke 1:57-66 on Thursday.
- Read Luke 1:67-80 on Friday.
- Read Luke 2:1-7 on Saturday.