



HOPE IN COMMUNITY

SPOTLIGHT

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." We are actively reaching out to our neighbors to bring practical help to those who are facing challenging circumstances during this pandemic. If you want some ideas on how you can reach out, or if you have an idea about how we can bless our community [let us know here](#).

GET TALKING (Choose a conversation starter)

- What are ways people respond when their sense of peace is ripped from them?
- What are some ways you have seen people working to create a peaceful environment during this current time of uncertainty and unrest?

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Peace depends on presence
- Because of Jesus, we have Peace with God
- The Peace of God gives us purpose
- Along with God's Peace comes God's Power

DIG IN

1. What do you think about the dictionary definition of peace? Pastor Bob summed it up as "typically defined by the absence of something. The absence of struggle. The absence of conflict. The absence of suffering. The absence of worry." Is the accepted definition an accurate or realistic definition? Why or why not?
2. Read John 20:19. Reflect on all that happened to Jesus over the days from Palm Sunday to becoming a guarded body in a tomb through the eyes and minds of the disciples. Their plans were dramatically dashed, and the leader they put all their hope in was "tortured and killed by his enemies in the most humiliating way possible." Share your thoughts about what they would be feeling, talking about, and doing as they were sheltering at home behind locked doors?
3. How are things going at your house today? What are you doing to find peace or purpose in your days at home?
4. Read John 20:21. Pastor Bob says "The peace Jesus brings runs into our struggles, into the hard circumstances, and into the places where we try to hide. Because of Jesus, we have Peace with God." When our anxiety and stress is high, it can be hard to receive the peace of God. Take some time now to use a search engine to search scriptures on peace. Go around your group and share as many as you can find.
5. In John 20:21 Jesus not only gives His disciples peace, but also sends His disciples out as He has been sent. This commission is not only for Jesus' disciples, but also for us. Have you taken time to seek out what God is calling you to do, or have you been busying yourself with things YOU want or think you should do? Consider if what you have been accomplishing is what God wants or not. Share your thoughts with the group.
6. What did Jesus do before He sent out the disciples in John 20:22? As Pastor Bob shared, it's the work of the Holy Spirit who knits us together to form the Body of Christ. What does this mean to you? How does it make you feel about your own qualifications?

(continued)

BIG IDEA

Seek Jesus, and find true Peace

NEXT STEPS

This week make time to seek God and what He is calling you to do. Begin with time in His presence and allowing His peace to fill you. Pick one of the scriptures on peace that stood out to you. Pray that scripture repeatedly this week. Try posting it where you will see it each day. Pray for the Lord to make your path clear as you seek the Holy Spirit to fill you and guide you. Share with your group what you are hearing from God so they can be praying for you to do God's will as well.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for reconciling us to yourself through Jesus' death and resurrection. Please forgive us when we choose our will over yours. May we trust in the LORD with all our hearts, and not lean on our own understanding. In all our ways we want to acknowledge You, and You will make straight our paths. Help us not to be not wise in our own eyes but instead, fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will bring healing to our flesh and refreshment to our bones. (Psalm 3:5-8)
In Jesus powerful name, amen.