



Perfect Peace

Peace on a Divided Earth

Sermon Recap

Conversation Starters:

- How does “Believe a lie empower the liar” speak to you?
- How does “Other people shouldn’t have to earn your forgiveness just as you didn’t have to earn God’s forgiveness” speak to you?
- God’s forgiveness extends to the past, present and future for all in Christ Jesus. How does “the forgiven forgive” speak to you?

Ask your group members to share their favorite points from the sermon, what stood out to them, a phrase or moment from the sermon they related to the most, or questions they have. If your members have a hard time remembering, share your notes and favorite points.

Reflect:

1.) Read [Isaiah 26:3](#) NLT, [Luke 12:51](#) NIV and [Matthew 5:9](#) NIV: Pastor Jason shared six attributes that are indicative to war. War: creates distance, walls – Read [Ephesians 2:12-14](#) NIV, facilitates escalation, false belief, hostility and ultimately brings war – Read [James 3:14-16](#) NIV.

How is each attribute in opposition to God and how He calls us to live as His children?

Is there any situation as Children of God that exempts us from extending forgiveness to others? If so what and why, if not why not?

2.) Read [2nd Corinthians 5:18](#) CEV, [Isaiah 1:18-19](#) NLT: Pastor Jason shared three ways in which we can be peacemakers: Receive God’s Forgiveness - Read [1st Timothy 13:15](#) NIV, Freely Give - Read [Matthew 10:8](#) and [2nd Corinthians 5:14-21](#) NIV, and Go First - Read [Romans 5:8](#) and [James 3:17-18](#) NIV.

Is it better to live in peace or be at war?

Do you find when in situations that can create war you’re intentional to promote peace, or do you get sucked into a war?

Why do you think each of the three ways promote peace?



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Apply It:

Division, discord, disagreements, disputes, and dissensions are abrasive and facilitate offense. In the middle of offense it's easy to get emotional and take actions that burn bridges rather than restore them. Don't be taken in offense. In the middle of an offense, strive to bring peace, reconciliation and restoration to any and all offenses. Christ is the mediator and sacrifice that brought redemption between God and humanity. As a child of God, be the one who brings restoration and reconciliation to those you are around. Never forget that God has forgiven all of us in the depths of our sin. Go first by forgiving others in the middle of their sin. Freely we have received forgiveness from God through Christ, therefore give freely to others.

Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer:

Ask your group members if they have a prayer request. Write them down and continue to pray for them during the week.

Father, offenses hurt and are painful. Sometimes they penetrate deeply to the heart. It's easy to fall back on our emotions which only perpetuate war, obliterates unity, peace, and harmony, thereby destroying relationships rather than promoting them. Help us walk in the wisdom of knowing that our choices should lead, and our feelings should follow the choice in Christ we've all made. We've all chosen Christ so our actions should align with God's Word and the example of Christ despite any circumstance. Choose to Love. Forgive. Extend grace. Be merciful. Shine your light brightly for the cause of Christ in all things and find "Perfect Peace" amidst a fallen world, in Christ we pray, Amen.