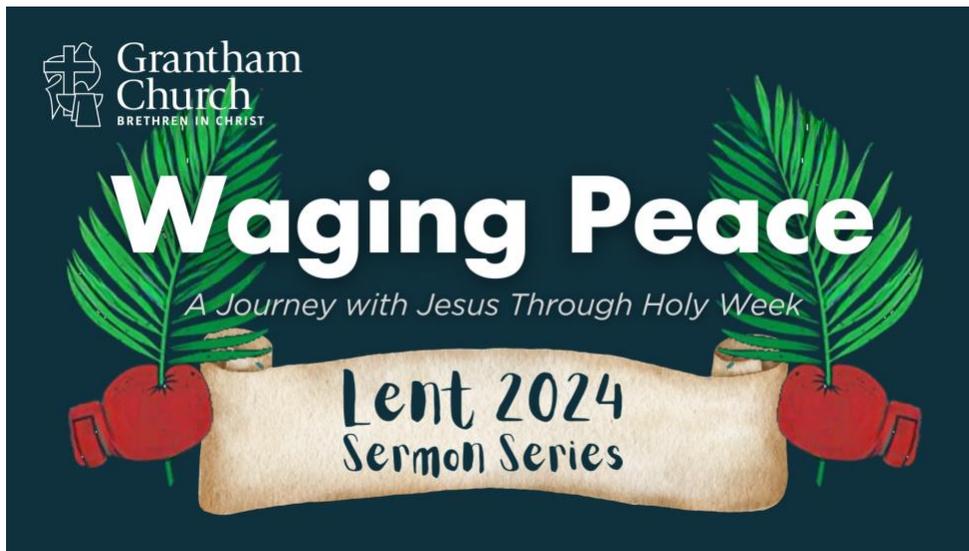


Waging Peace (7 of 7)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, March 31st, 2024



Series Focus: At the beginning of Holy Week, Jesus looked out over Jerusalem and cried aloud, “If only you knew the things that make for peace.” And then Jesus spends each day confronting injustice, calling out oppressors, and contending for peace. But what if—despite our familiarity with the events of Holy Week—we have not fully understood or embraced how Jesus makes peace and calls us to do the same? Join us for Lent as we journey with Jesus through Holy Week and discover anew why he is called the Prince of Peace, and what it looks like when we are waging peace like him.

Sermon Title: Peace Be With You!

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:57-28:15; John 20:19-23; 1 Corinthians 15:58

Sermon Focus: On each day of Holy Week, Jesus showed his disciples what it looks like to wage peace in keeping with the true character and ways of his Father. This led to his brutal death by crucifixion. But while the cross appeared to be the end of Jesus, it was the way by which he became victorious over sin and death and revealed to the world the power of his peaceable Kingdom. In the final message of our series, Pastor David invites us to receive the gift of Christ’s peace so we can be his peacemakers.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read the following passages: Matthew 12:40; Ephesians 4:9-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22, 4:6; Revelation 1:18. Now think back to what Pastor David said about Holy Saturday. What thoughts or feelings did the early Christian teaching on Christ's decent into the realm of the dead (i.e., sheol, hades, hell) conjure up in you? What do you believe Jesus was doing on Holy Saturday? Why does it matter?
2. Peacemaking can be hard, discouraging work. Yet Holy Saturday reminds us to press on even when it feels as if God is absent, and hate has won. If you're willing, share about a season in your life that felt like Holy Saturday. Did Sunday ever come? If not yet, how can the group pray and support you during this time?
3. Read John 20:19-23. Pastor David pointed out that Jesus blesses them with "Peace be with you!" first to calm their fears in seeing him alive again. The second blessing is to ensure them that he is not angry with them and that he wants them to carry on his work as peacemakers. Have you ever heard Jesus' words in this way before? Imagine how the disciples must have felt after denying and abandoning Jesus in his arrest, suffering, and death. Has Jesus ever surprised you with a blessing of "Peace be with you!" despite your sins?
4. Jason Porterfield writes: "The early Christians believed that Jesus' resurrection signified the inbreaking of God's future plans into our present world order. And they taught that in the locked room on Easter Sunday, Jesus commissioned his followers to help make that future a present reality. Every day was to be lived in light of the resurrection. And the church was to serve in this world as an outpost of God's future kingdom" (*Fight Like Jesus*, pg. 176). What do you think this looks like today? How should this shape the way we work for peace?
5. How has your understanding of Holy Week deepened through this sermon series and intentionally reflecting on how Jesus waged peace in his final days and hours? How, if at all, has your understanding changed?
6. Now that you've seen how Jesus made peace during Holy Week, what will you do with this knowledge? How will it change the way you contend for peace from here on out? Share at least one thing from this series that has impacted you.
7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. Take a minute in silence to meditate on these words from Paul. And then share with the group what God is saying to you right now.