



small groups

Discussion Guide



Seeking Shalom

Luke 4:16-21

Ice Breaker

(5 minutes)

Discuss

- You get to decide on your own perfect Thanksgiving dinner and a team of professional chefs will prepare it for you. What's on the menu?
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Lesson Review

(35 minutes)

Here's the Wikipedia definition of Shalom:

Shalom (שָׁלוֹם) (Sephardic Hebrew/Israeli Hebrew: shalom; Ashkenazi Hebrew/Yiddish: sholom, sholem, sholoim, shulem) is a Hebrew word meaning peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility and can be used idiomatically to mean both hello and goodbye.[1][2][3] As it does in English, it can refer to either peace between two entities

(especially between man and God or between two countries), or to the well-being, welfare or safety of an individual or a group of individuals.

What God Thinks About Shalom

He hates its vandalism.

Read Jeremiah 22:3-5 and Isaiah 61:8

Discuss

- It's not often that you hear any sentence from IBC's stage that begins with the words "God hates." Why do you think Andy was willing to say that in this circumstance?

Andy talked about injustice in many forms, from terrorist attacks to dowry killings in developing countries. He defined injustice as "the powerful and rich oppressing the powerless and poor through dishonor, robbery, and physical violence."

Discuss

- Injustice on TV across the ocean is one thing. Injustice at home is quite another. Where have you seen injustice personally this week?

What Jesus Thinks About Shalom

He came to restore it.

Read Luke 4:16-21

The Prince of Peace (Shar Shalom) declared that his mission was to restore shalom — to bring freedom to the prisoner, recovery of sight to the blind. And how did he carry out that mission? By surrendering his rights and making the ultimate sacrifice. Evil in our world demands sacrifice.

Discuss

- Revisit the injustice you talked about in the last discussion question. How might it be overcome by your surrender? How can you "die" this week?

Application

(20 minutes)

Andy outlined three steps for us.

1. Enter the kingdom through faith

In a moment, you're going to pray for several requests. Be sure to pray for those you know who have not yet entered the kingdom.

2. Strengthen the kingdom through prayer

Take some time to pray for the following requests. Also, if you don't already subscribe to the Prayer Ministry eLetter, sign up here: <http://www.irvingbible.org/ibc-eletters/>

- **Visitors:** Pray for God to draw people to our church and grant people the gift of faith
- **Welcome Team:** Pray for God to grow and equip the team of volunteers that help people feel welcome at our church
- **Small Groups:** Pray for members of small groups all across our city to connect with authenticity, interdependence and mission.
- **Small Group Leaders:** Pray for wisdom and faithfulness.
- **IBC Staff:** Pray for joy in serving
- **IBC Pastors:** Pray for courage in leadership and a thriving prayer life
- **IBC Elders:** Pray for wisdom and discernment of God's will

3. Extend the kingdom through service

Discuss

- How are you serving the kingdom? What next steps is God calling you to?

