

CONNECTION GROUP QUESTIONS – DECEMBER 7, 2025

Title: The Peace of the Lord

Synopsis: Isaiah points to the Messiah who will bring true peace—destroying wickedness, ensuring justice for the oppressed, and uniting former enemies. This peace is more than personal comfort or social handouts; it requires walking in Jesus' footsteps, practicing sacrifice, and living as participants in God's kingdom of reconciliation.

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

Icebreaker

1. Would you rather have the power to calm one argument at a time or bring lasting peace to one community at a time?
 2. What's one small thing you do that brings peace or calm to your own day?
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Read Isaiah 11:1-10

Background Questions

3. What does Isaiah mean when he describes the family of Jesse as a stump and Jesus as a branch?

Leader Notes:

- The kings of Israel and Judah were all descendants of David, Jesse's son.
- They were supposed to be trees of life: bringing life, nourishment, abundance, and protection to Israel and blessing to the nations.
- Israel and her kings failed in this purpose, so they were removed (exiled) like a tree that was cut down.
- From this family, the Messiah (Jesus) will arise to fulfill that purpose perfectly.

4. Why is judgment a critical role for the Messiah?

Leader Notes:

- In the ancient world, the king was the primary judge.
 - Judgment restores justice, defends the dignity of the oppressed, and brings peace.
 - Righteousness (right relationship with God and people) ensures righteous judgments.
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Meaning Questions

5. What does peace mean?

Leader Notes:

- Peace is not just the absence of conflict, but the presence of restored relationships.
 - Peace doesn't ignore the past but seeks justice.
 - Peace requires proximity, not separation from conflict.
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Personal Application Questions

6. What are some of the places in our world that need peace?

Examples: Communities affected by violence, schools, families, nations in conflict, workplaces.

7. What are some of the barriers toward peace?

Examples: Fear, prejudice, revenge, selfishness, desire for control, greed, or misunderstanding.

8. How can we bring peace into our families, schools, workplaces, or communities this week?

Examples: Listening carefully, mediating conflicts, showing kindness, or speaking words of encouragement.

9. When has it been difficult for you to seek peace instead of reacting with anger or frustration? What helped or could have helped?

10. What are some small habits or practices that help you maintain inner peace, even in stressful or chaotic situations?

Examples: Prayer, meditation, journaling, deep breathing, or Scripture reflection.