



THE POINT:
*God's peace helps us rise
above our circumstances.*

OVERVIEW: Who doesn't long for peace? We'd love an absence of conflict in our lives, a time with no squabbling or obstacles. Even when we have those moments of "peace and quiet," they are often short-lived. But God offers us a far greater and lasting peace, even while facing conflict with others or battling our circumstances. In Gideon's encounter with God, he discovered he could trust God to give the Israelites peace because of who God is.

Directions: As you begin your event, consider using the following engage options before starting the message.

ATMOSPHERE

Play a slideshow of pictures from war-torn countries as students enter the room. Say, **"The world has so much brokenness because of sin's curse. God offers peace to those who pursue Him and turn away from their sin."**

MEDIA

Search the Internet for "Christmas Truce of 1914, World War I - Christmas is for Sharing." Play the video as you begin the session. Say, **"Even when the world is chaotic, God can bring about peace in our lives."**

TEACH (MAKE YOUR NOTES BELOW)

The Point: God's peace helps us rise above our circumstances.

PREPARE

As God's truth transforms us, we will become more like Jesus in the ways we love others. Doing all we can to live in unity with others is a picture of our being at peace with God.

1. BE QUICK TO FORGIVE

Colossians 3:12-13

- A.** We are to be compassionate and kind, among other things, as a reflection of God's goodness.
- B.** We should bear with others regarding minor offenses and pursue forgiveness and reconciliation for those that could cause division.
- C.** We forgive others in light of the fact that God has forgiven us.

2. PURSUE PEACE

Colossians 3:14-15

- A.** Unity is essential for those who are a part of God's family.
- B.** When we love others well, unity is the natural result.
- C.** When we live lovingly toward people, we are more likely to live at peace with others. Unity with other believers is a key ingredient in experiencing peace with God.

3. GOD'S WORD GUIDES OUR INTERACTIONS

Colossians 3:16-17

- A.** Scripture should saturate every moment and every area of our lives.
- B.** As it forms us, we should share God's truth with others.
- C.** As we see the difference Scripture makes in our lives and relationships, the appropriate response is continual gratitude toward God.

Directions: Use the following outline as a guide for a message based on the passages from this session of Bible Studies for Life: Students. Additionally, use the suggested illustrations and activities to customize your midweek event.

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INTRO

- ▶ **When has someone wronged you? Describe.**
- ▶ **How did you respond?**
- ▶ **How have others responded when you've wronged them?**

COLOSSIANS 3:12-13

- ▶ **How does God relate to His people?**
- ▶ **How can you reflect God as you relate to others?**
- ▶ **Why is it so important to forgive others?**

COLOSSIANS 3:14-15

- ▶ **What does unity look like?**
- ▶ **How can we pursue unity?**
- ▶ **How can you practically live at peace with others?**

COLOSSIANS 3:16-17

- ▶ **What does Scripture have to say about how we should interact with others?**
- ▶ **How can you let that shape the way you relate to people?**
- ▶ **What impact can you have on others by loving them well?**

LIVE IT OUT

Discuss: Ask students to briefly discuss ideas that may have challenged them during the session.

Ask: What areas of your life can you identify as opportunities for growth in the way you relate to others?

Pray: Ask God to help students experience His love in a way that they cannot help but to love others.