



Easter

Resurrecting Peace

#npeaster

April 21, 2019

Bottom Line: Peace is found in a Person.

Icebreaker: Complete one or more of these statements: “Spring means it’s time to get out the _____.” or “The best kind of candy to put in an Easter basket is _____.” or “My least favorite/most favorite spring chore is _____.”

Key Verse: *For there is one God and one **Mediator** who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus.*
1 Timothy 2:5 NLT

Easter became necessary in the Garden of Eden. All human beings became sinners through Adam and then through the sins we commit daily. Our sin set up a conflict with God. Our sin stands between all of us and God. Nothing we do could ever be enough to deal with the conflict and mediate between us and God. No amount of good works could make peace between our sinful selves and a holy God. Jesus came to be the mediator; to settle the conflict between us and God. He came to die and pay the penalty for our sins, and then rose again to be the peacemaker between us and God. Jesus is the only mediator; the only one who could do it. He brought us three kinds of peace: peace with God, or spiritual peace; the peace of God, or emotional peace; and peace with others, or relational peace.

There are three keys to experiencing this peace.

- 1) We need a moment of clarity; a moment in time when our eyes are opened to His truth. We have an “aha moment” about our need and how God sees us.
- 2) We need to express humility. Humility is the opposite of pride and is the pathway to peace. God is not moved by whining or crying. He is moved when I humbly ask for help. The fastest way to get your mind back during struggle is to humble yourself.
- 3) We need to expect Jesus to help us. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man, and He invites us to get His help. He says, “Come to me.” “Connect with me.” Then He wants us to invite Him to “Change me.” He can and He will give us peace.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

“Jesus came to be the mediator to settle the conflict between us and God because of sin.” How would you describe sin and its divisive effect on a relationship with God?

“God wants you to have peace with God. You were born into sin. You didn’t behave yourself into your sinfulness and you can’t behave your way out. Your peace with God has nothing to do with performance.” Reflect and discuss.

“Peace with God begins with faith in Christ.” What has this meant to you?

“God wants us to have the peace of God: emotional peace. You can’t hurt and hate others and have the peace of God.” How have you experienced this?

“Peace with God and the peace of God paves the way to peace with ourselves and equips us to make peace with others.” Reflect and discuss.

LOOK IT OVER <<<

“Through Jesus we can have peace with others: relational peace. We can work through our differences.” Share a situation where God helped you experience this.

Jesus said He gives peace that is different from how the world defines it. How does the world define peace? How is the peace Jesus gives different?

Do you remember when you had an “aha moment” when you understood why your life wasn’t working? How did that connect the dots for you?

“The quickest and most direct route to sanity is to humble yourself.” Agree/disagree? Why?

What is your biggest obstacle in expecting Jesus to help you?

“Jesus says the reason you lack peace is because you are trying to do it all by yourself.” That’s true after salvation too. Reflect and discuss.

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Consider the cost a lack of peace, in whatever area, is making in your life.
- 2) Consider the invitation of Jesus to connect with Him to be changed. Where do you need to invite His changes?
- 3) Invite someone to consider Jesus.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Peace is found in a Person.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Isaiah 26:3

Tuesday: Philippians 4:6-7

Wednesday: Matthew 11:28-29

Thursday: John 20:19-20

Friday: Ephesians 2:16 NLT

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)