



PEACE
~~IN OUR~~ *His*
TIME

Bible Study Discussion Guide



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For the Study Leader

Group Discussion:

- Please feel free to move at your own pace through this study and take as much time as you need for each lesson.
- You are welcome to dig in as deep as you want for your personal study, or you might use just the Bible passages and questions included in the discussion guide.
- If you have a limited time for this study, have participants take a few minutes to look through the sessions and choose as a group those questions they would most like to discuss.
- We have designed our questions to be open-ended, thus allowing those in your group to share their experiences and unique perspectives.

A downloadable PDF for this study can be found at lhm.org/peace.



Using Our Digging Deeper Icons

This is an interactive study guide. We designed it to be flexible, so it will fit both group and personal use. It includes icons that link the user to internet sites where he or she can browse and explore a subject more thoroughly.

We encourage you to look through the Digging Deeper icons to see which ones your group might want to discuss. While you may use the paper discussion guide during your group study, you may want to assign homework for those in the group to check out the various internet sites on their own time. Doing so makes the study much more interactive.

Once you have downloaded the electronic PDF copy of the discussion guide, click on the icons in the text or at the end of the session. When you click on an icon, it will take you to that specific link, which will then open up the corresponding website.

There are only two steps you need to find the Digging Deeper links for this study:

- 1) Visit lhm.org/peace.
- 2) On the bottom of this page, click “Additional Resources.”

Now you can click the links that interest you and start digging.

To This Discussion Guide User: Because of the changing nature of the internet, occasionally a web link included in a Lutheran Hour Ministries Bible study may change or be deleted altogether by the agency or individual posting it. When you notice an internet link has been modified or has become inoperable, please report this to LHMResponse@lhm.org so we can find an alternate site. Thank you.



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In this world, peace can be elusive. A look at any given year and it's plain to see that troubles, calamities, catastrophes, etc., are all part of living on this planet. If we're looking for some politician or sage or contemporary prophet to usher in a new age of peace and tranquility, well, we're going to be heartily disappointed. This world simply doesn't have what it takes to create a lasting and peace.

That's not true, however, when it comes to what God can—and one day *will*—do. In this brief Bible study, we are reminded that though the world quake on all sides, in the middle of it all, we have a God who will keep us in perfect peace, even when all looks lost, and there is nothing for us to count on.

Perhaps the prophet Isaiah, a man acquainted with troubles and hardships on all side, said it best: “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You” (Isaiah 26:3).

Opening Prayer: Lord, our lives and our world are filled with so much conflict, struggle, and turmoil. Knowing where to turn should be easy for us, but still we find ourselves confused and downcast over our circumstances. Please show us how we might find peace in our lives. Remind us that it is in You alone where true rest is found. We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

- Do you think peace is possible? Why or why not?
- Are there things you do to create or cultivate a more peaceful world for yourself? Your family?
- What is the opposite of peace?

Watch the Video.

God designed this world to be a place of perfect peace, but Adam and Eve messed that up. It got bad in a hurry—so bad that their first son murdered their second! And what’s more, through the succeeding generations, nothing has changed. Consider David’s anguished description of his life in the psalm below.

Read Psalm 13.

- 1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?
- 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
- 3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
- 4 Lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,” lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.
- 5 But I have trusted in Your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
- 6 I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.

- What things do you see today that would not surprise David?

- Where do you see turmoil in other people’s lives?

- How does peace look different at work, at home, in the car?

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

- 1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
- 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- 5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- 7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- 8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

- What would be a time for war?

- What would be a time for peace?

Isaiah called Jesus Christ the “Prince of peace” (Isaiah 9:6b). Our Lord told His disciples, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27).

- How does the peace that Jesus is talking about compare to the peace we are looking for?

Is there anything surprising about the following passage where Jesus is talking about peace?

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And whoever does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:34-38).

- When does Jesus’ peace put us in conflict with those around us?

- Is there a way we can avoid compromising our faith and still maintain a relationship?

- How does knowing that Christ suffered, died, and rose for all people make a difference in how we relate to those in conflict with us?

On the cross, “Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’ ...” (Luke 23:34a).

- What part does forgiveness play in our peace?

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us seek the peace of God which passes all understanding. Keep our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ until the Day He returns to restore Your magnificent—and peaceful—creation. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.

 **Digging Deeper:** [Learn more about peace and conflict in ourselves, in our congregations, and in our world.](#)

Additional links and resources available at lhm.org/peace.



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