

Peace Search

Luke 10:1-20

Discover

Peace is freedom from hardship and struggle; a state of calming rest and sustained tranquility. Search means patiently trying to find something by careful investigation.

Jacob deeply hurt his brother Esau when he manipulated him out of his birthright and father's firstborn blessing. God had mercy on these brothers and prepared Esau's heart to forgive Jacob. These men practiced peace. (Genesis 33:1-11)

David was a mercenary before he became a king. He was constantly searching for safe places and people of peace who would help him escape from Saul's wrath. Abigail was a woman of peace married to a foolish man. Her wisdom, grace, and gentleness kept David from massacring her family. David eventually married Abigail. (1 Samuel 25:1-35)

King Solomon searched with all his might for peace. He built the most prosperous kingdom in history: developing urban infrastructures, innovating a futuristic society, and cultivating a global trade network. He wooed hundreds of royal women, pursued every pleasure available to a man, and researched the greatest depths of human knowledge. After all these accomplishments, Solomon had only one conclusion: life is worthless without God. (Ecclesiastes 2)

Saul the Disciple Persecutor had no peace. He tried to satisfy the burning rage in his heart by imprisoning innocent Christians, but he was never satisfied. Jesus showed up in a vision, blinded his eyes, rebuked his crusade, and gave him a new mission of making peace with all nations. (Acts 9:1-19)

This lesson focuses on peace. We need to know how to recognize Jesus' peace when we see it in the harvest fields.



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LUKE 10:1-20

Draw

Open Home: house & open door - When Jesus sent out the seventy two disciples on mission into villages, he taught them how to identify open homes. We will find people who desire Jesus and his righteous kingdom of peace. (10:5-7)

Harvest Prayer: praying disciples - Before we go out on mission, we pray for the fields. We ask our Harvest Lord to send out more workers. The Holy Spirit stokes a spiritual fire of love in our hearts for our lost neighbors' souls. (10:2)

Faith Mission: road over water - Jesus' mission is not easy. He describes his disciples as lambs among wolves. We depend upon his care and provision as we stay focused on him. We are not afraid of danger; we trust our King. (10:3-4)

Peace Invitation: disciple & flame - We search for people of peace who desire to receive the Holy Spirit and become God's children. Jesus promises to give us clear sight to see where his peace rests and where he is rejected. (10:5-6)

Intentional Fellowship: table, bread, & cup - Jesus teaches us to focus on one peace house. We cultivate friendship by sharing meals with the family and nurturing a trustworthy relationship. We are not called to invest our lives in people whom the Lord has not confirmed through prayer. (10:7-12)

Identify Bondage: disciple laying on hands - We identify sickness and pray for healing. We anticipate spiritual warfare and persecution. We engage people in love and faith, and then leave the results to the Holy Spirit. (10:9-17)

Kingdom Message: disciple speaking, crown, & listener - We disciple people in Jesus Christ's identity and stories. He alone has authority over the dragon. We teach disciples about his righteous kingdom and how to praise his name. Our focus is not on signs and wonders but faith. (10:16-20)

Discuss

Read Luke 10:2-12. Review Jesus' instructions about advancing God's kingdom. What stands out to you about his strategy? Why do we need to go on mission with someone else? How do we know we have found peace?

Read Luke 10:13-20. How does Jesus describe the activity of spiritual beings in heavenly realms? What role does repentance fulfill in Jesus' gospel mission? Why does Jesus tell us to rejoice in our salvation rather than miracles?

Read Matthew 5:13-16. Jesus describes his disciples as salt of the earth and lights of the world. How does salt illustrate a disciple on mission? How does light illustrate a disciple on mission? Take a look at your light. How are you shining?

Read Jeremiah 6:13-19. What is the relationship between this passage and Luke 10:10-20. What is the difference between this world's peace and the kingdom of heaven? What do you think are the ancient paths of God? What are some signs that a person is rejecting Jesus and his peace?

Disciple

Let's get practical. Where do you live? What are the names of local neighborhoods and marketplaces around your home? When is a good time on your weekly calendar to set aside for a prayer walk? Whom will you invite along for the adventure? Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for faith and favor.

Dedicate

Father, thank you for opening up our eyes to see the harvest fields. Please give us a heart of compassion for our lost neighbors, a deep love for their souls, and a desire to visit them. Please guide us to the people you want us to engage, in Jesus' name and for his glory we pray, amen.