



Small Group Guide: Shalom – The Peace Jesus Brings

Overview

This session explores what it means to be a new creation people who carry the peace of God -- not merely as a feeling of calm, but as the full weight of the Hebrew word *shalom*: wholeness, healing, guidance, protection, prosperity, and the destruction of chaos. As the Spirit of God dwells within us, we are called to receive and release this peace in every area of our lives.

Key Takeaways

- The Spirit of God dwells within every believer, making us carriers of God's presence and peace wherever we go.
- *Shalom* is far more than the absence of conflict. It encompasses wholeness, relational harmony, health, abundance, and the active governance of God's kingdom over chaos.
- The four Hebrew letters of the word *shalom* reveal a rich picture of what Jesus brings when He enters our lives: He destroys the authority of chaos, leads and protects us, permanently establishes His covenant through His shed blood, and brings order and purpose out of disorder.
- One of the greatest barriers to experiencing God's peace is keeping our focus on our lack rather than on His fullness.
- God's soul will not reject us. His mind, will, and emotions toward us remain constant, passionate, and unchanging.

- We are called to release *shalom* into our homes, workplaces, relationships, and communities -- because everywhere we go, we carry His authority.
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Discussion Questions

Opening (Choose one to get the conversation started)

1. When you hear the word "peace," what is the first thing that comes to mind? How does that image compare to what was described in the sermon?
 2. Think of a moment when you genuinely felt at peace despite difficult circumstances. What was happening in your heart during that time?
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Going Deeper

3. The sermon described how we often approach God with our focus on our lack -- our needs, fears, and problems -- rather than on His presence and fullness. Do you recognize that pattern in your own prayer life? What does it feel like when you shift your focus from the problem to the person of Jesus?
4. Michelle described a practice of quieting yourself before God and simply saying, "I surrender. I thank you. I love you." How comfortable or uncomfortable does that kind of stillness feel to you? What makes it difficult?
5. The sermon walked through Leviticus 26, highlighting that God desires to dwell among His people, walk with them, and declare that His soul will not reject them. What does it mean to you personally that God's mind, will, and emotions toward you are not changed by your failures or weaknesses?
6. The four Hebrew letters of *shalom* were unpacked as follows:

- **Sheen** -- Jesus destroys the authority that establishes chaos
- **Lamed** -- Jesus leads and protects like a shepherd
- **Vav** -- Jesus permanently establishes His covenant through His blood
- **Mem** -- Jesus brings order and purpose out of chaos

Which of these four dimensions of *shalom* resonates most with where you are right now in life? Which one do you find hardest to receive?

7. The sermon referenced Jeremiah 29:7, where God tells the Israelites to seek the *shalom* of Babylon -- the very people who oppressed them. How does that challenge your understanding of who deserves to receive the peace you carry? Is there a person, group, or situation in your life where this is difficult to apply?

8. Paul described how the early disciples were recognized as people who had been with Jesus -- not because of a title or a performance, but because of a quality of presence they carried. What do you think it looks like practically for people around us to notice that we have been with the Lord?
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Reflection Questions

9. The sermon stated: "Our past becomes a testimony to the power of the present in our lives." Is there an area of your past -- a wound, a mistake, or a trauma -- where you are still allowing that past to define you rather than God's present reality? What would it look like to begin releasing that to Him?
 10. Jesus said in Luke 10:5 that when we enter a home, we are to let our peace rest upon it -- and if it is not received, the peace returns to us and is not wasted. How does knowing that your *shalom* is not a limited resource change the way you think about engaging with difficult people or environments?
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Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to practice individually or as a group before your next meeting:

- 1. Practice Stillness** Set aside ten minutes each day this week to be still before God. Rather than bringing a list of needs, simply breathe in His presence and release your focus on lack. You might use the words shared in the sermon: "God, I love you. Thank you. I surrender. I lack nothing. There is nothing to fear."
- 2. Write It Down** The sermon encouraged people not to let what God speaks in moments of stillness escape them. Keep a small journal or note on your phone this week. When you sense God speaking -- through a thought, a scripture, an image, or an impression -- write it down and share it with someone you trust.
- 3. Identify Your Chaos** Prayerfully identify one area of your life where chaos has been allowed to have authority -- fear, relational conflict, financial anxiety, health concerns, or an unresolved wound. Bring that area specifically before the Lord and invite His *shalom* to enter. You may find it helpful to picture Him walking into that room.
- 4. Speak Shalom** Choose one person in your life this week -- someone in your family, at work, or in your neighborhood -- and intentionally release *shalom* over them. This does not have to be verbal. It can be a prayer, an act of kindness, or a moment of genuine presence with them. Reflect afterward on what you noticed.

5. Revisit the Letters Write out the four dimensions of *shalom* -- Sheen, Lamed, Vav, Mem -- and place them somewhere visible. Each day this week, meditate on one of them and ask the Lord to make that dimension of His peace real in a specific area of your life.

Closing Prayer Prompt

Close your group time by praying *shalom* over one another. You may do this by having each person speak a simple blessing over the person to their right, or by having a group leader declare it over everyone present. Use the understanding from the sermon -- that *shalom* is not just a wish but a declaration of God's governance, presence, and order being released into a person's life.

"May the governance of the kingdom of heaven, of Jesus Christ, Lord of life, Prince of peace, be released and rise up within you, bringing order to your chaos."