

Leader's Guide - Youth Sunday School – Us and Peace: Peace with Others – 11/15/20

- Fighter verse
- Prayer
- Briefly discuss New City Catechism and associated verse
 - Question 15: Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose? That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior. The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Savior. (Romans 3:20)
 - Question 16: What is sin? Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law—resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation. (1 John 3:4)

Review

- What is peace?
- How do we get peace with God?
- How do we pursue inner peace?

Peace with Others

- We must have peace with God in order to have true peace with others. Why?
- 1. Peace with others is extremely important to God.**
- God tells us to pursue and strive after peace with others. Romans 12:18 "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." What should we do to pursue peace in these verses?
 - Romans 14:19 "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace"
 - Hebrews 12:14 "strive for peace with everyone"
 - Matthew 5:23-24 "So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."
- Why is peace with others important in each of these verses?
 - Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."
 - Colossians 3:15 "as members of one body you were called to peace."
 - What would it be like if we had different body parts in our physical body that were not at peace with each other?
- Why does God care about our peace with others?

2. How to pursue peace with other believers

1. Remember that we are fellow members of the same body.
 - Romans 12:5 "we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another" > We belong to each other
2. Remember that we are members of Christ's body.
 - Ephesians 5:29-30 "For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body." It is Jesus' glory at stake in our relationships with one another.
3. We must be humble and face up to our contributions to conflict.
 - The cause of problems in relationships often lies wholly or at least partly with us. What are some ways we partially contribute to problems in relationships?
4. We must take the initiative to pursue peace.
 - It doesn't matter who is in the wrong. Unresolved conflict between believers is sin and must be treated as such.

- John 13:35 says "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- Why do relationships between Christians matter so much?
- Taking the initiative to pursue peace also includes praying for God to work in these relationships.

3. How to pursue peace with unbelievers

- Open your Bibles and read Romans 12:17-21.
 - How does this passage say we should interact with unbelievers?
- Again, it is our responsibility to take steps to restore peace.
 - What are some things we can do to try to restore peace?
- We are in no way to seek revenge. Why not?
- Why is it important to pursue peace with unbelievers?

- According to the following verses, what do we do when believers/unbelievers won't be at peace with us, or are even hostile, even though we have tried? Do we keep trying?
 - Matthew 18:21-22 "Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."
 - 2 Timothy 2:3-4 "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."
 - Romans 12:18 "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

- DO BIBLE STUDY WORKSHEET FOR NEXT SUNDAY ON ROMANS 14:12-21.

- Prayer Requests

Peace Memory Verses (pick at least 1)

- Romans 12:18 "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."
- Romans 5:1 "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- Philippians 4:6-7 "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
- Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body."
- Psalm 34:14 "Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."
- Matthew 5:9 "'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."
- Hebrews 12:14 "Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

Study Guide

Review

- What is peace? (Definition: Peace is freedom from God's wrath and freedom from turmoil within ourselves and with others.)
- How do we get peace with God? (Belief in Jesus as Lord and Savior taking the punishment we deserved)
- How do we pursue inner peace? (through prayer, dependence on the Holy Spirit and pursuit of God's Word)

- We must have peace with God in order to have true peace with others. Why? (true peace only comes from the source of peace - God, his peace enables our pursuit of peace, peace is a fruit of the spirit and so only comes to those who have his spirit, caring about peace with others is a God-given care)
 - Romans 14:19 "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace" (make every effort)
 - Hebrews 12:14 "strive for peace with everyone" (strive)
 - Matthew 5:23-24 "So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (make peace before doing anything else [including worship], make peace even if the other guy has the problem [your brother has something against you])
- Why is peace with others important in each of these verses?
 - Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (God's children are characterized by their desire to be at peace with others)
 - Colossians 3:15 "as members of one body you were called to peace." (we are part one body and so are meant by God to be at peace with one another)
- Why does God care about our peace with others? (It is a witness to the world as one body, it is obedience to God, it shows that we trust in him to be just rather than taking vengeance ourselves, it is what should overflow from a heart that has peace with God and knows his love, etc.)
- Why do relationships between Christians matter so much? (because it is how people know we are followers of Christ, it shows the power of Christ to unite all different kinds of people to one family)

- What are some things we can do to try to restore peace? (pray, have conversations, admit and be sorry for our responsibility in the conflict, give some trust to them)
- We are in no way to seek revenge. Why not? (because we are not the judge, because it seeks to gratify our own desires, it is pride in taking it into our own hands instead of leaving it to God, it doesn't trust God to handle it or that He will provide justice, we want mercy for ourselves but not for others)
- Why is it important to pursue peace with unbelievers? (so we have a relationship through which we can witness to them, we are commanded to, it represents Christ, etc.)

- According to the following verses, what do we do when believers/unbelievers won't be at peace with us, or are even hostile, even though we have tried? Do we keep trying?
 - Matthew 18:21-22 "Then Peter came up and said to him, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" (keep forgiving, over and over)
 - 2 Timothy 2:3-4 "Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him." (Keep your eye on what God has enlisted you to, living for him, being at peace with God, yourself, and others. Don't get

so entangled with situations that can keep you from peace. As much as it depends on you but then we pray and give it to God.)

- Romans 12:18 "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." (do whatever you can for peace, this includes forgiveness)