

# YEAR OF GROWTH

## PEACE WEEK 1

### EXPLANATION

#### Definitions:

The word “peace” (in all its variations) is found 450 times in the Bible. The Hebrew word is *shalom*. It refers to “safety, wellness, health, prosperity,” “completeness, soundness, or tranquility.” It indicates “a condition of freedom from disturbance, whether outwardly ...or inwardly, within the soul.”

The Greek word is *Eirene* (εἰρηνῆ). It means, “Quietness or rest;” “a state of tranquility or harmony, resulting in security. Thayer defines it as: “The tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.”

One dictionary definition of peace is: “Cessation of or freedom from any strife or dissension; freedom of the mind from annoyance, distraction, anxiety, and obsession; tranquility; serenity. To become reconciled.”

#### Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the previous lessons concerning faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, love, joy, hope, meekness, and humility. Among all these characteristics we must add peace. Yet, when we possess these other attitudes, we will find peace. The Bible has much to teach about being peaceful and at peace. Pray for wisdom in understanding this characteristic. Pray for strength as you prepare for this study.

#### Day Two – Monday

##### Psalm 4

In the midst of trouble and difficult situations, David was still at peace. He knew that he was right with God, living a godly life. He knew that the Lord would hear and answer his prayers. He trusted in the Lord and offered “sacrifices of righteousness” to Him. He remembered all the times God had blessed him. Therefore, David was able to be at peace.

#### Day Three – Tuesday

##### Psalm 29

David understood that peace comes from God. He declares that God should be glorified for His nature and His power. The voice of God reveals the might of God – what He speaks is accomplished. Because God rules the world, He is able to grant peace to His people – individually and collectively.

#### Day Four – Wednesday

##### **Psalm 85:7-13**

Peace is found in the company of other important attributes. God's mercy provides salvation which produces peace. Fear of God allows mercy, truth, righteousness, and peace to be joined together. Thus, peace is not possible in isolation; it must be joined with other godly character traits.

#### Day Five – Thursday

##### **Ephesians 2:11-17**

Jesus is the ultimate definition of peace. Jesus came into the world to preach peace – both to Jews and Gentiles. Through His sacrifice on the cross He provided the means of making peace between God and man – and, therefore, between men. By establishing the church, He produced a body of peace where men could come together in unity and love. Thus, He is our peace!

#### Day Six – Friday

##### **Psalm 119:161-168**

Peace is found when one loves the law of the Lord. The psalmist praised God and rejoiced in His Word. He understood that by knowing God's Word one could know God and enjoy the peace He provides. To be a peace, one must read, study, and obey the Word of God.

#### Day Seven – Saturday

##### **Mark 4:36-41**

Jesus spoke the words, "Peace, be still." The Word of God had the power to calm a stormy sea. Yet it also has the power to bring peace to a stormy life. Jesus slept during the storm because He was at peace. The disciples were fearful because they lacked faith. Trusting in the Lord will produce peace in one's heart and life.