

## Small Group Discussion Guide — November 15, 2020

- Series: Gospel Truth - Good News for Everyone
  - Sermon: “You Are Given Grace and Peace”
  - Scripture: John 14:27, 1 Peter 1:2, Revelation 22:21
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### **FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:**

Which part of Pete’s “trinity” of the root system from last week - the Word, the Church, or the resurrection - brought you the most comfort this week?

### **CONNECT:**

1. What one thing stood out for you from this weekend’s services?
2. What are the major contributors to anxiety in your life? COVID? Politics? Or something more personal?

### **ENGAGE:**

1. As we read through the scriptures for this sermon we discover a coupling of the words “grace” and “truth”. David reminded us that this coupling appears 17 times in the New Testament. Is there a significance to these two words being used together so frequently? If so, what is it?
2. Read John 14:27. Jesus says that he gives us **his** peace. What specifically about the peace of Jesus Christ is different from other sources of peace? Does it feel sometimes like Jesus’ peace is unattainable? What contributes to this feeling?
3. Read Colossians 3: 15. Practically speaking, what does it mean for the peace of Christ to rule in your heart? How do you make this a reality?

### **APPLY:**

1. In Matthew 3: 17 and Mark 1: 11, we read the graceful words God the Father said to and about Jesus right after his baptism. Try to imagine God saying these words to you. How easy or hard is it? What keeps you from believing that God thinks these things about you, too?
2. What are the things that compete with Jesus for the title of “Lord” of our lives? David listed fears, worries, insecurities, social media, and politics. Which of these gives you the most trouble, and why?
3. One way to know that we have grown in God’s grace is that we desire that same grace for those who have wounded us. Share a time when you’ve experienced more grace and peace from God when you’ve been able to forgive someone else. What role does pride play in keeping us from experiencing grace?

### **PRAY:**

Heavenly Father, in the year 2020 we desire your peace more than ever. There are so many voices tempting us to anxiety and despair. But we hear your voice clearly calling us to accept your grace and experience your peace. Help us to trust you more and more, as faithfully in calm seas as we do in the storms. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## **GOING DEEPER:**

1. David mentioned that we all have a “crew” inside our head that speaks words to our hearts about ourselves, many times not grace-filled. These words form the way we see ourselves and can dominate the way we live our lives. Some categories “the crew” comments on are our past, our relationships, our accomplishments, our social standing, and our money. Because of these accusatory voices, we can begin to see ourselves as dumb, damaged goods, ugly, underachieving, weak, etc.

In which of these categories do you need the peace of Christ to overrule the voices inside you? Do you have other areas besides those David named? Bring these specific areas to God this week in prayer, and try to hear what he is saying to you instead. Ask Him to give you different names, ones that better reflect the beauty of your identity as His child.

2. Is God a concept for you, or is He a reality? How do you *know* that you’ve fully entered into a life with Him, one in which the Gospel is active and real?

## **SUPPORTING VERSES:**

Isaiah 9:7

## **QUOTES**

The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



## 7 GIFTS OF SUFFERING

- Makes us more honest, more humble, and less pretentious
- Breaks chains of false faith, beliefs, self-reliance, and pride
- Opens relationships to new levels of sincerity and depth
- Reduces our ego striving and the tyranny of trying to impress others
- Makes us more compassionate and wiser, deeper people
- Enables us to be healers in the world's pain
- Grows our hope for heaven

**HOPE**  
A Good Place to Find Life