

Discussion Questions

Cultivating Fruit-filled Lives



Romans 5:1 / Philippians 4:6-7: Peace (Galatians 5:22)

“To have the peace of God we need to be at peace with God.”

As we seek to partner with the Spirit to make room for His fruit to grow, consider:

- Have you got peace with God? Have you surrendered in repentance to the authority and rule of God? *Surrendering is not a one-time thing. Repentance should be daily before our King, because in our lives there are still parts of us that war against God that need to be brought before Him in surrender.*
- Is Jesus the Captain of your boat? *One of the members was interviewed and asked how she was coping in the lockdown. She replied, “In this Storm, when my eyes are fixed on Jesus, I know He is in my boat and I have peace. When I look at the news and take my eyes off Jesus, I lose my peace.”*
- Reflecting on the list below, in what areas of your life are you helping or hindering the Holy Spirit to produce fruit? *We cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit in our own lives but we can help or hinder it.*
 - - Unconfessed sin
 - - External stresses
 - - Uncertainty in God
 - - Pain from the past
 - - Uncontrolled desires
 - + Obedience
 - + Praying
 - + Thanksgiving
 - + Confession

Additional Questions – choose 2-3 to further your thinking.

- What part of the sermon stood out as important to you this week? Why?
- Read Isaiah 43:1-7. What words and phrases indicate God’s special relationship with Israel? (Don’t forget to put it in context by looking at Isaiah 42)
- God tells his people not to be afraid twice (vv. 1, 5). What dangers might they face (v2)?
- If the peace of God does not depend on freedom from adversity, as Gary mentioned, then what does it depend on?
- Romans 8:29 tells us that we’re gradually being made into the likeness of Christ. How does adversity help us in developing peace?
- Although this passage is primarily directed to Israel, God’s concern goes beyond local nationalism as Jesus’ servant hood embraced the whole world (John 3:16-17), including those grafted into Israel through Christ (Romans 11:17-24). How do vv. 3-4 foreshadow what God eventually does for his people?
- If you knew nothing about God except for what you learned from this passage, what would you find him to be like?
- Thinking about human relationships, what are the ways you grow to love, trust and understand someone (and them you)?
- John 14:27 says, ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.’ How can knowing Jesus in an intimate way produce the Spirit’s peace in you?