



Peace is Possible | Andrew Matrone | 12.18.22

## Weekly Study

### SHARE

This week Andrew reminded us that amidst the lack of peace the world is experiencing right now, peace is possible. As followers of Jesus, we can experience true, soul level peace that is found only in Jesus and requires us to fight for this in our everyday life.

Before we jump into the study, take some time to check in with your group and ask the following questions:

- What is the most impactful or challenging thing you learned during Sunday's sermon?
- What did that thing teach you about God? About yourself?

### GROW

#### **Read Psalm 23**

As we just read, David's vocation was a shepherd and he cared for sheep, God is our shepherd, and he cares for us. This is the assurance that we don't have to carry the world on our shoulders, but that we have a shepherd who protects, perfectly provides and guides us in

peace. So many times, we experience the wilderness and in that it can feel very lonely, but God is reminding us that he is with us, we are not alone even when it may feel like it.

Andrew posed a good thought, that maybe the reason we feel tension and a lack of peace in our life is because instead of letting God be our shepherd, we have tried to be your own shepherd. That Instead of letting him lead in our finances, marriages, mental health struggles... we have taken our life into your own hands. We are designed for a shepherd. Without God we will not experience this peace that we all long for. Having faith to know that we are his and that he will never leave us will allow peace to settle in deep within our souls.

Peace is possible in Jesus and that requires our surrender of the “wheel.” This is where true peace can be found, it is a direct result of surrendering. There is a song called “The Prayer” and a line in the song says, “lead us to the place, guide us with your grace. To a place where we’ll be safe.” This is everything that surrendering and allowing God to shepherd brings us. He will lead us and guide us to himself where we can rest in his goodness and care; with him we are promised true peace.

**Does your soul feel at peace?**

**Have you been your own shepherd?**

**Do you find it difficult to allow God to shepherd you? Share.**

**M O V E**

**Read Romans 5:1; Isaiah 9:6**

We can go and try to find peace in wealth, status, shopping, sex, substances but at the end of the day that façade will only last for a short time. Because God’s Word says, to experience true, soul level peace can only be found in the relationship with Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

**Have you been in a season where you have been running to everything but Jesus? In the words of Andrew, when it comes to experiencing true peace, how has that been working out for you? Share.**

Remember, peace isn't a place where you get to a "zen", but true peace is when you are slugging through life and that God is right next to you through it all. God will bring us to the awareness that when we look up, he has been there all along, just as he had promised.

As 2023 approaches, lean in and listen to the voice of Jesus speaking to the deepest part of your soul. His voice stilling the storms, his commands quieting the thoughts in your head and in your heart. Let Jesus take your hand. Let Him lead you through the of the pain of your past, the hardship of the present, and into the future with deep faith. Without God, we would wander. Even with God, we still are prone to wander, but remember peace is possible we just must fight for it. Fight to remember God's faithfulness to you and thank him that he has never left your side even when you didn't feel him there.

**Do you believe that true peace is actually possible for you?**

**After listening to Andrew's talk this week, how has God shifted your heart posture when thinking about the lack of/presence of true peace in your life?**

### **This Week's Challenge**

**Each day pray these words from the hymn, "Come Thou Fount":**

*"O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be. Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, LORD, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart LORD, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above."*

**Also, start each day reading Psalm 23**

## P R A Y

Take time to pray together asking God to reveal himself as the Prince of Peace to you during this season.

