

Day 1

October 29



Pray | For complete peace through faith in Jesus

“PEACE BE WITH YOU.”

It could have been just a simple greeting – it was, in fact, a common greeting among the Jewish people. But perhaps it means much more, as Jesus’ words usually do. It could be an acknowledgement of forgiveness for these men who ran away after his arrest and remained in hiding after his death. Or a sort of command, such as when he told the wind and waves to cease, to calm the fear and anxiety of his disciples. It could also be that Jesus meant these words to reach out over 2000 years into the future, to grab hold of you and promise you a kind of peace that the world can never give you.



Read | John 20:19, John 14:25-27



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following:

The Hebrew word for peace- ‘shalom’- and the Greek word ‘eirene’ have broader meaning than our English word ‘peace’ conveys. Consider taking time to research these words online, or through the notes in a study Bible. Another option is to watch the Bible Project video titled Word Study: Shalom – “Peace” on YouTube.

In a troubled world where so many people suffer tragedy, poverty, illness, where incredible injustices are committed on a daily basis – God’s children are promised peace. How does God’s peace guard our hearts against fear and anxiety in these circumstances?

Think of a time when you have experienced God’s peace even though you were facing the troubles of the world. How would you describe this peace? How did it change your reaction to your situation?

Day 2

October 30



Pray | For God to help you in your forgetful belief

I'LL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT.

The problem is, we see, we believe, then we promptly forget. We hear a sermon on Sunday and God's Word becomes real. Then we wake up Monday morning and go back to our daily routine like nothing happened. On Thursday, there's a minor miracle and we know we've just seen God at work, then the phone rings, the kids start fighting, the football game starts...and it's like nothing happened. If only we could see Jesus in the flesh and hear him speak, then we would definitely spend every moment living for him -wouldn't we? Or is there more to it than merely seeing with our eyes?



Read | Luke 24:36-43, John 20:29



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Even those closest to Jesus, who loved him and were eyewitnesses to his miracles, struggled with belief and forgetfulness – of who Jesus said he was and what he said he was going to do. Do you think it would be easier to believe, or have a deeper belief, if you were one of the disciples? Why?

The Old Testament is filled with stories about the Israelites experiencing God's miracles, then forgetting God and worshipping idols instead. Most Christians today can relate to this kind of wandering from God. What are some ways that you combat this tendency in your own life?

There is evidence from the Bible and from other historical sources that the twelve apostles (minus Judas, but with the addition of Matthias in Acts 1:26) spent the remainder of their lives after Jesus' resurrection spreading the gospel in the face of tremendous persecution. What does their conviction say to you? How might that change anything about how you are living your life?

Day 3

October 31



Pray | To be trustworthy in sharing the gospel

A PEOPLE WHO ARE SENT.

It can be easy to miss the impact of a statement when it is one that has become familiar. As Christians, we are (and need to be!) constantly reminded of our commission to make disciples of all nations. So we can hear Jesus' words in John 20:21 and think, "Yeah, I got it - share the good news." But can we take a moment to see how remarkable it is that our Risen King entrusts this mission to us? We, who introduced sin into God's perfect world, are deemed trustworthy to lead others to faith in Jesus when we are often faithless ourselves. It's an unreasonable invitation into an incredible, life-changing mission.



Read | John 20:19-21



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Before Jesus states that he is 'sending' the disciples, he again offers them his peace. What role does Christ's peace play in our mission as his followers?

Sometimes God 'sends' us to stay exactly where we are and make disciples. What steps can you take in your home, at your job, and in your community to reach more people with the gospel?

As followers of Jesus, we are a sent people who are being formed in the image of our sending God and our suffering Savior. What are some ways you are being conformed to be more like Jesus? Take some time to praise God for the work he has begun in you!

Day 4
November 1



Pray | For the Holy Spirit to guide your steps today.

EMPOWERED FOR THE MISSION.

Judging by the success of the Marvel Universe movies, people love superheroes. Haven't we all, at some point, dreamed of having a super power? Our faithful God doesn't let us down when it comes to this dream. Every believer is given the gift of the Holy Spirit – the super power of God himself. Of course, he protects us and the world by not allowing us to use the Spirit for our own selfish gain, so don't start thinking you can zap your kids into perfect obedience or conjure up your mom's famous lasagna anytime you crave it. This Spirit calls us, equips us, and empowers us to fulfill God's mission in the world.



Read | John 20:21-23, Luke 24:45-49



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

Pause for a moment and jot down some insights about our need for the Holy Spirit. What does the promised Spirit do in us and accomplish through us?

In John 20:22-23, the Spirit is linked closely with forgiveness for sins. Forgiveness is a great blessing of the gospel that the Spirit empowers us to proclaim. The point is to remember that the authority to offer forgiveness comes from God, not us, and we are all equal in our sin. Do you think this message often comes off as judgmental to non-believers? If so, how can the message be refined?

Do you ever have doubts about the power of the Holy Spirit in you? If so, take time to listen to Jeremy Camp's song 'Same Power' and focus on the lyrics. How do Camp's words help your understanding of the gift of the Spirit?

Day 5

November 2



Pray | For the courage to choose Christ, today and every day

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER.

It's a short section of verses but it encompasses the basic storyline of the Bible – God the Father sends his Son, God the Son sends his people into the world, and the Father and the Son send the Spirit to empower us for mission. As followers of Jesus, we are a sent people who are being formed in the image of our sending God and our suffering Savior. We are not alone on our mission but are all the while empowered by the Spirit of God and protected from fear and anxiety by the peace of Christ. How the mission is accomplished is different for each of us and often changes over time. What does not change is that we must choose it, every day, every moment. We must take up our cross daily and follow him.



Read | John 20:19-23, Luke 9:23



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following:

The 'sending' Jesus mentions in John 20:21 involves all parts of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How should the Trinity impact the daily practice of our faith and our evangelism?

Figuring out what exactly your role is in God's story can be hard to do. Be encouraged with the truth that God redeems every misstep for his glory and he is cheering you on in love and with inconceivable grace. Believe it, and pray, right now, for him to reveal his will for you.

If you have accepted Jesus as your savior, you also accept a life on mission, proclaiming the message of forgiveness of sins to the world. There are many ways to be on mission – what are some of the ways you have proclaimed the gospel? If you haven't yet accepted Jesus, consider taking on the mission of speaking with a pastor or Christian friend about choosing Jesus.

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