

Family Devotional

From May 1, 2016

Read/Reflect: What do you think of when you hear the word peace? First, have each person share one word they think of, then go around a second time and let each person describe a peaceful day for them. Now, let's see how Jesus describes peace:

Read John 14: 23-28

It's easy to think of something as peaceful if it is perfect, quiet, and serene, but Jesus said he brought a new kind of peace. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "my peace I leave with you"? Was Jesus saying everything would always be perfect? What kind of peace was he talking about?

Think about what Jesus was going through when we told his friends this passage. He knew what was about to happen. He knew he would be betrayed, beaten, and crucified, but yet he was still at peace. Why do you think he was able to be at peace even in the midst of crazy circumstances?

Can you think of another time Jesus was calm and collected when everyone else was freaking out?
(Read Luke 8:22-25)

Why was Jesus able to be at peace in both of these situations? Who was he trusting to be in control?

Jesus is a wonderful example for what it means to fully trust God's plans and surrender our lives to him. God never promised us life would be easy, but he did make a promise that allows us to be at peace even in the worst circumstances. Do you know what that promise is? Read Deuteronomy 31:6.

That is the peace Jesus was talking about in John 14. Not an easy perfect life, but an assurance that God is always with us and working on our behalf. The God kind of peace is not the absence of conflict but trusting that God is at work in the chaos. He is mending all the broken places and setting everything right.

The best gift God gives us is himself. Through Jesus' sacrifice we not only get to spend eternity with him, but through the Holy Spirit, we get to start spending everyday with him now!!!

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on John 14: 27 this week.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for showing me how to trust Father God even in crazy times. Help remember he is in control and making everything right in his timing. Thank you for making it possible for us to have your kind of peace through the gift of the Holy Spirit..... Amen."