

Peace

WEEK 3
PEACE IS AN ACTION

Message Notes Danny Anderson

“Glory to God in highest heaven, and **peace** on earth to those with whom God is pleased.” *Luke 2:14*

God took action so that we can have peace.
We also must **act** in order to have peace.

1. **Focus** on the good.

...it (love) keeps **no record** of being wronged. *1 Corinthians 13:5*

It (love) always protects, always **trusts**, always hopes, always perseveres.
1 Corinthians 13:7

2. Be willing to **apologize** .

Prides leads to conflict. *Proverbs 13:10*

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with **humility** toward one another... *1 Peter 5:5*

3. **Improve** yourself.

“Your life gets better only after you get better.” Jeff Sooev

The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. *Matthew 12:35*

4. **Endure** people's faults.

Make **allowance** for each other's faults... *Colossians 3:13a*

“Instead of putting others in their place, put yourself in their place.”
John C. Maxwell

5. **Forgive** as the Lord forgave you.

“...and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” *Colossians 3:13b*

“Though everything inside of me wants to hate, be angry, and slip into despair, I choose the route of forgiveness, grace and hope.” Davey Blackburn

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

LAST WEEK'S ACTION STEP

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

OTHER POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR CHECK-IN

TIME WITH GOD – What are you applying that you are getting from your daily time with God?

MEMORY/MEDITATION VERSE – State it.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR - Who was accountable for you? Did they care for you by helping you achieve your action step(s) this past week?

Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. How do you normally fill the gap between your expectations and the behavior of others toward you? Do you typically show frustration, anger, disappointment, trust, love, acceptance, or is there something else? Why?

If you want peace you must choose to live in appreciation of others, and focus on the good. Why is this so difficult? How does this process lead to peace? What step will take in order to change your focus, and to begin to fill any gaps in your relationships with trust?

2. Being ready and willing to apologize is a powerful way to create peace, but so many times we simply won't do it. What are some of the reasons we might hesitate to offer a sincere apology?

1 Peter 5:5b says, "...dress yourself in humility as you relate to one another..." Share a time when someone else's humility made an impact on your life. What steps are necessary in creating a posture of humility? What are some things that will change in your life if you choose to create a posture of humility? Are you willing to choose humility, and be the first to say you were wrong? Why or why not?

3. Life Coach, Jeff Sooley said, "Your life gets better only after you get better." Jesus said it this way in Matthew 12:35, "A good person produces good things..." What are some areas in your life where you are currently taking intentional action to get better? What is your motivation? What specific actions are you currently taking?



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Small Group Questions Continued

When it comes to obtaining peace in your life, you must be willing to own your part of the problem and work to improve. What would happen if you chose to get serious about overcoming your addiction, developing more patience, showing more generosity, serving others, or any other action that would bring more peace to your life and those around you? What action do you need to take? What person or resource do you need to seek for guidance or help in this area?

1. Read Colossians 3:13. On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate your level of tolerance for the shortcomings you see in others? When you hit your threshold of tolerance, how does it begin to show?

Author John Maxwell wrote, "Instead of putting someone in their place, put yourself in their place." What is Maxwell trying to say? What is the possible outcome of "putting yourself in their place?" What do you need to do to develop more empathy toward others? How will your ability to endure the faults of others ultimately lead to peace in your own life?

2. Reread Colossians 3:13. What does it mean to forgive others as the Lord forgave you? Why is this often such a struggle for us?

How does forgiveness of others contribute to peace in your life? Who do you need to forgive? What will you release (anger, bitterness, judgment, resentment, or something else) in order to make forgiveness possible? What step will you take this week to seek peace through forgiveness?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____.

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are

_____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____