

A SERIES OF ~~UN~~FORTUNATE EVENTS ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

...we know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him, and are called according to his good purpose." Romans 8:28 (NCV)

- Because of Jesus, our circumstances are never **hopeless**.

May the God of hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope! Romans 15:13 (MSG)

I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. John 14:27 (NLT)

- God gives us **peace** for everything we face in life.

I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world. John 16:33

Why we need peace:

- Fear in life can prevent **faith** in our lives.
- Doubts in life can prevent **rest** in our lives.

On that day, when evening had come, he (Jesus) said to them (his disciples), "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" Mark 4:35-40 (NLT)

- Never let the presence of a **storm** cause you to doubt the presence of **God**.
- Uncertain times are not a reflection on the **disciples**.

The challenge is: Don't take it personally, get **personal** with God.

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. Philippians 4:6-7 (MSG)

- Uncertain times cause us to question the **character** of God.

The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" Mark 4:38 (NIV)

The challenge: Make it your quest to **discover** God's character.

I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16-19 (MSG)

- Uncertain times are opportunities to be **amazed** by God.

And they were filled with awe and said among themselves, "Who is this man, that even the winds and seas obey him?" Mark 4:41 (TLB)

The challenge: We need to Expect God to do the **unthinkable**.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

We experience peace when **God** within us is greater than the **chaos** around us.

We can't have the peace of God **without** the God of peace.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Our Personal Peace is directly related to:

- The **Surrender** we give to God.

Only God gives inward peace, and I depend on him. Psalm 62:5

You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you. Isaiah 26:3 (GNT)

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Philippians 4:6 (MSG)

- The **Savior** we have received.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For (Christ) himself is our peace...Ephesians 2:13-14a

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you have hope in this pandemic? How does Jesus give you hope in hopeless circumstances?
- How is your peace in this crisis? Why do we need peace in these uncertain times? Talk through the two points under the sub-heading "Why we need peace".
- If you were one of the disciples in the boat would you have responded like the disciples? Explain why?
- Why do we process uncertain times from the perspective that they are happening to us because we've done something wrong?
- How do we question the character of God in uncertain times? Why do we do this?
- How does surrendering to God give us personal peace?
- How does our savior give us personal peace?
- How does the Christmas story communicate God's desire for us to experience His peace?

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