

# Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of December 8 - 14, 2019

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## Main Thoughts and Scripture:

The sad reality of our world is that it is filled with trouble and it seems to only be getting worse. The holiday season magnifies the trouble that people experience with additional expectations and pressures. However, we can have true peace, which is a sense of well-being in the midst of trouble, with its ultimate fulfillment in the new heaven and earth. This peace comes only through Jesus.

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NIV)*

This passage teaches us two important truths on how we can have peace in troubled times:

- 1) Accept the fact that in this world, we will experience trials of many kinds. We live in a fallen world wrecked by sin – the root of all evil – which resides in every human heart.  
(Romans 3:23 NIV)
- 2) We can take heart in the fact that Jesus overcame sin and death for us. Because of this, we too have the power to overcome sin and death and find peace as we fully abide in Him.  
(Romans 8:2, John 15:5 NIV)

While we cannot fully escape sin's effects in this fallen world amongst fallen people, our peace comes through Jesus and as we look forward to the ultimate peace we will have in Heaven. Then, sin will be fully eliminated as Jesus rules completely.

(Revelation 21:1-5 NIV)

Until then, we are to build our lives on Jesus and His Word and help others find their peace through Christ as well. (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV)

## Reflection: Break into groups of 3-4 to discuss.

- What stands out to you from the main thoughts and scripture above and why?
- Have you ever experienced peace through Christ in the midst of trouble? What happened and what did you learn?

## Application:

- What is one trial that you are currently facing? How do you think you can find peace in the midst of it through Christ?

## Prayer: Break into pairs, share, and pray for one another.

- What is one area of trouble that you need prayer for to find peace in? Pray for one another.
- Who is one person experiencing trouble that you can pray for and reach out to? Pray for them.