

40 DAYS OF FRUITFULNESS



Small group discussion questions

PEACE

1. Read the account of the calming of the storm in Mark 4:35-41. What stands out for you about this passage and why?
2. How much peace do you experience in your life at the moment?
3. What is currently your biggest peace-killer / peace-thief? What can you do about this?
4. In Hebrew, the word for peace is “shalom” and has a far deeper meaning than just our understanding of peace which essentially the absence of conflict. In Hebrew thought, peace or “shalom” is completeness, success, fulfilment, wholeness, harmony, security and wellbeing. It encompasses all of life and of humanity. Why do you think it is significant, in this context, that Isaiah refers to Jesus as “The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)?
5. In the storms of our lives, what makes the difference is that Jesus is in our boat. He promised to give us a supernatural, different kind of peace. Read John 14:25-27 below and discuss what you think Jesus meant by this?

“All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

6. Peace is born of faith. We find peace when we trust the nature and the character of God. Sometimes, this means accepting that His ways are not our ways and that we don't understand the

way He works (or the way He doesn't do what we think He should). How do you think you can cultivate peace in your life by growing your faith in Who God is? (See Isaiah 55:6-13).

7. Why do you think Jesus was so calm in the storm and so incredulous at the disciples' lack of faith?
8. The disciples' response when Jesus calmed the storm was, "Who is this man, that even the wind and waves obey Him?" How can you practically make sure you are getting the right perspective about Who Jesus really is and living in His power so that you can experience His peace?
9. What storms are raging in your life right now? If you are comfortable, share them with the group and commit to upholding each other in prayer.
10. As we've been challenged to pursue peace in different ways over the last few days, what has stood out for you / been challenging for you, or do you have an experience to share about the challenges and how God has grown you or done something in your life?