

# **THEME: Don't Believe People Claiming to Bring Peace**

NOTE: This session should be completed *after* Stage 2, Session 5: Guard Against Deception.

## **LOOKING BACK**

- What was the most important thing you did or heard from the last session?

## **CONNECT Looking for Peace**

### **Resources**

Bibles

### **Icebreaker Activity - Where Do We Need Peace?**

#### **Activity – Four Corners:**

1. Ask everyone to stand up.
2. The leader should stand in the middle of the room and say: “Where do you see the greatest need for peace right now? Go and stand in the corner that corresponds to your choice.” Point to the corners associated with each choice. (If your room is not big enough to move around in, get people to link with others who think the same as them, ready for the discussion.)
  - a. Peace in families.
  - b. Peace between nations.
  - c. Peace in the media.
  - d. Peace in politics.

### **Discuss**

- Stay in your corner and talk to any others who may be there standing with you. Talk about why you chose that corner. Why is that the area most in need of peace right now?
- Go around the four corners and ask for one representative from each to talk about that issue. The leader can discuss why peace is needed in that area if no one is there.
- Our world needs peace in so many places. What would you have added if we could have added one more choice? *Perhaps someone might say inner peace or peace on the inside.*
- Peace with God is the most important place for everyone to experience peace. Jesus, through His death and resurrection, has already given us peace with God. This peace is a gift offered to all people who will accept it.
- Jesus is returning to the earth one day, and He will bring peace to all areas of our world.

# TRUTH TO KNOW

## Faith Focus: Be on Guard Against False Peace

### Introduction

We want to help you know the Truth and will do our best to tell you what is true, but you don't just need to take our word. You need to read it in the Bible for yourself. So we will open the Bible and read the Truth each time we meet. This week's "Truth to Know" is found in **John 14:25-31**.

Did you know the Bible tells us that Jesus brings a peace different from the world's peace?

### Background to This Bible Passage

In **John 14**, Jesus speaks with His disciples about how He is the only way to the Father. He tells them that He must go away to Heaven to be with His Father for a while. He also tells them that the Father will send the Holy Spirit to the disciples to help them.

### The Unfolding Story - Your Interactive Teaching

Read **John 14:25-31**.

- In this passage, Jesus explains that the Holy Spirit will be sent to His followers to teach and to remind them of everything that Jesus has taught.
- Jesus talks about two types of peace in verse 27. What are they? *The peace that Jesus gives through the Holy Spirit and the peace that the world gives.*
- What does Jesus say about the person who is coming (in verse 30)? *The ruler (or prince) of this world. This person has no hold over Jesus. We know that this person is the antichrist.*
- Let's unpack this by looking at a few different passages that talk about the antichrist and peace.
- According to **Daniel 9:27**, the antichrist will appear to be a man of peace. He will be involved in putting together a peace deal. This deal is supposed to be for seven years. However, at the midway point, after three and half years, the antichrist will change his mind. Suddenly, this man of peace will become a man of war. His peace will not last because it is a false peace.
- **Revelation 6:2** refers to a rider on a white horse, and many Christians believe this refers prophetically to the antichrist's arrival. We don't know who the antichrist is or when he will appear on the world stage, but he will rise in the public eye a few years before Jesus returns.
- Just before Jesus returns, a "man of peace" will arise and bring peace, especially to the Middle East region and to the nation of Israel. It will seem to many worldwide as though world peace has finally arrived. However, Christians who know their Bibles well are going to recognize that this is a false peace. This "peace" is a clear sign that Jesus will soon return to the earth.
- In **Jeremiah 8:11**, the prophet Jeremiah speaks of a future time when everyone talks about peace, but it won't actually be a time of peace.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:3** mentions what it will be like around the time of Jesus' return. He said that people will talk about peace and security, and then suddenly, a time of destruction will come.
- **Isaiah 9:6** prophesies a coming Messiah called the Prince of Peace. Christians need to know the difference between the prince of this world and the true Prince of Peace, Jesus: the only one who brings deep, lasting peace to our world.

**Activity Suggestion - Know the Difference!**

**Aim:** To practice thinking about and knowing the difference between false peace and true peace.

**Things to Prepare:** pens, colored pencils, two ledger-size (A3) sheets of paper, small slips of paper, and a bin for the Time for Action activity

**Activity – Peace Comparison:**

1. Think about worldly peace (false peace). Write or draw ideas about this type of peace on a large piece of paper. Try to come up with at least five characteristics that describe this false peace.
2. Repeat this for Jesus' peace (true peace) on a different sheet of paper.  
*(If there are many of you in your group, divide into two: half can look at false peace, and the other half can look at true peace.)*
3. Discuss the answers.

Go over some answers below that may not have been covered.

***World's Peace: (false peace)***

- Surface level, shallow
- Short-lived
- Conditional
- Enforced
- Only works for simple problems
- Peace with others, but not with God
- Circumstances seem peaceful (on the surface)
- The Bible warns us about false peace.

***Jesus' Peace: (true peace)***

- Deep
- Long-lasting, enduring
- Unconditional
- Voluntary
- Can solve the most complex problems
- Peace with God
- Peace on the inside, regardless of circumstances
- The Bible tells us that Jesus' peace is true.

### Discuss - Be on Guard Against False Peace

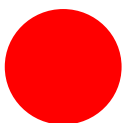
- How can we be prepared for this coming time of false peace? To begin with, we should read our Bibles and know that this time of false peace is coming.
- How can we guard against believing in the false peace of the antichrist or from other leaders? We should be filled with the true peace that can only come from Jesus through the Holy Spirit. The best way to recognize a counterfeit is to be very familiar with the real thing.
- What can we do if we are unsure whether the peace we see around us is real? We can pray and ask God to show us. We can also be sure to hold on to Scriptures more than we hold on to world leaders and politicians.
- Christians must be on guard against false peace. The Bible says that there will be complex world issues in the time leading up to Jesus' return, which will be problems that must have spiritual solutions. Christians will need to recognize problems that can only be solved by the peace that Jesus brings. That way, when world leaders bring forth their peaceful solutions, it will be apparent that these are counterfeit measures.
- Can anyone think of a complex issue that will only be solved by Jesus when He returns? War, famine, effects of sin – greed, selfishness, broken relationships, sickness & suffering. The most complex issue is probably the Middle East conflict between Israel and the surrounding nations. This conflict is the problem that the antichrist will claim to solve one day, but only Jesus can truly solve this.
- In **John 16:33**, Jesus told His followers that the world will give us huge problems, called tribulation, but that we can find peace in Him. It's helpful to know that this time of tribulation is coming. Then, we will not be surprised or offended, but instead, we will be ready to hold on even more tightly to the peace that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, gives us.

## READY TO GO

*Thinking about how this affects our lives and our response to the signs we see.*

Think about what you will do to identify and guard against false peace.

## TIME FOR ACTION



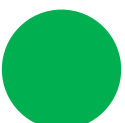
### 1. "STOP & THINK" Action Point

Take two minutes to think about your own life. Are you enjoying the peace that Jesus offers, or do you often feel stressed or worried about the things happening around you?



### 2. "PAUSE TO PRAY" Action Point

Have a conversation with God about today's lesson. Ask Him to help you to experience more of His peace, even when things around you are not peaceful. Ask Him to remind you of things you may need to surrender to Him.



### 3. "GO & DO" Action Point

Get a pen/pencil and some slips of paper to write on. Write down on each paper thing(s) that you feel might be causing you stress or worry. Then, bring them before God in prayer and exchange them for more of His peace. You can tear up the papers into shreds and throw them into a trash bin to show that you're done with them and receive peace from Jesus in exchange for those things.

## SPRINGBOARD

Discuss what topic you would like to do together next time. After this session, you may wish to follow up next time with one of the following sessions:

- How to Listen to the News
- How to Be in the World and Not of It
- The Middle East, Israel, and Jerusalem – Prophetic History to the Present Day

## DEEPER STUDY

*For those who would like to study further the themes raised in this session.*

### For Study

1. According to **Philippians 4:6-7**, what can we do to have the peace of God guarding our hearts and minds?
2. **Romans 5:1** says that we have peace with God through Jesus because we are justified by faith. Looking at **Romans 4**, what does it mean to have peace through Jesus?

### For Memorizing

1. **John 14:27** (NIV): "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."
2. **John 16:33** (NIV): "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."

### For Observation

As we come closer to the time of Jesus' return, our world will see an increasing number of complex problems. There will be other issues, besides conflict and wars, that governments, world leaders, and, one day, the antichrist will try to solve. Have a look at this [list of the world's top 10 problems](https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/147458/top-10-world-problems-and-their-solutions). (<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/147458/top-10-world-problems-and-their-solutions>) While we should do what we can today to alleviate the problems we see around us, we know that Jesus is the only true and lasting answer to all of these global concerns. Which one of these do you most look forward to Jesus solving?

### For Action

Jesus told us that even though there will be trouble in the world, we can have His peace. Isn't it amazing that we can be filled with peace from God regardless of our circumstances? Find one or two others who don't yet know Jesus to share about the peace that He is offering so that they, too, can be overcomers in the days ahead.

### Before the Next IN:Tribe

Search for an example of deception related to peace or peace-keeping. You might find this example in the media, or perhaps it is an organization or an NGO that promises to restore peace. You may wish to involve your parents in this search. Share your findings at the next IN:Tribe.