

Finding Peace in a Chaotic World

Video Study Guide



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Finding Peace in a Chaotic World: Video Study Guide © 2026, Terry Moore

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Advanced Biblical Foundations
www.advancedbiblicalfoundations.org
e-mail: contact@advancedbiblicalfoundations.org

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Finding Peace in a Chaotic World

Session 1: Peace Is a Person — Not a Circumstance

Session 1 of 6

About This Series

Finding Peace in a Chaotic World is a 6-session study built on one of the most clarifying statements Jesus ever made: 'In Me you have peace. In the world you will have tribulation.' This series does not promise that your circumstances will improve. It promises something far more durable — that real, lasting peace is available right now, regardless of what is happening around you, because peace is not a state of affairs. Peace is a Person.

Session 1 Overview

Session 1 lays the foundation for the entire series. The world we live in — chaotic, troubled, and unlikely to improve — allows us to turn to Jesus's own words to reframe everything. Peace is not found in circumstances, finances, relationships, or any external condition. Peace is found only in Jesus Himself. He is the Prince of Peace. He is Jehovah Shalom. And peace — real, lasting peace — flows from relationship with Him.

The Anchor Scripture

John 16:33 (NKJV)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 14:27 (NKJV)

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Key Scriptures — Session 1

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

John 17:15-18 (NKJV)

I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

Psalms 23:1-5 (NKJV)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul... Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me... You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

Judges 6:24 (NKJV)

So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it The-Lord-Is-Peace.

Key Themes & Teaching Notes

1. The World Will Never Deliver Peace

The world is a mess. Political instability, family breakdown, economic stress, global conflicts — these have marked every era of history. The early church faced them. The dark ages faced them. We face them now.

- Jesus does not promise that circumstances will get easier. He says plainly: 'In the world you will have tribulation.'
- The world's promise is a lie: 'Get more money, a better job, the right relationship — then you'll have peace.' It never delivers.
- There are wealthy people with no peace, and poor people with deep peace. Circumstances are not the source.

In Me you have peace. In the world you have tribulation. The only peace that is real is in Him.

2. Peace Is Not a State — It's a Person

This is the central revelation of the series. Peace in the New Testament (Greek: eirene) and the Old Testament (Hebrew: shalom) is not merely the absence of conflict. It is a comprehensive state of well-being, safety, contentment, and wholeness — and it has a name:

What Peace Means	The Source
Rest and security	Found only in relationship with Jesus — not in resolved problems
Quietness and contentment	A settled inner reality, not dependent on outer stability
Prosperity (shalom)	The whole-life flourishing God designed — not wealth, but completeness
Safety	Not the absence of danger, but the presence of the Shepherd

Isaiah 9:6 names Jesus as the Prince of Peace. Not the giver of peace as a commodity — the Prince, the very embodiment of it. He is Jehovah Shalom — God is Peace — the name Gideon gave the altar after his encounter with the Lord.

3. The Distinction: His Peace vs. the World's Peace

John 14:27 makes a critical distinction: 'My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.' Two kinds of peace are being contrasted:

The World's Peace	His Peace
Circumstantial — dependent on things going well	Unconditional — present regardless of circumstances
Temporary — lasts as long as conditions hold	Durable — 'I leave with you' — a permanent deposit
Shallow — broken easily by bad news	Deep — 'a peace that passes understanding' (Phil. 4:7)
Anxiety-producing when threatened	Anxiety-displacing — 'let not your heart be troubled'

4. Jesus Is Not Trying to Get You Out — He Has Sent You In

John 17 records Jesus's prayer for His disciples — and for all who would believe through them. The prayer contains a striking commitment: 'I do not pray that You should take them out of the world.' This is a direct challenge to escapist Christianity.

- Jesus prayed for our protection in the world — not our extraction from it.
- He has sent us into the world just as the Father sent Him: 'As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them.'
- The peace He gives is not for a trouble-free environment — it is for a troubled world.
- We are here to be light in the darkness, not to wait for rescue from it.

5. The Shepherd Psalm — Peace in the Valley

Psalm 23 gives a picture of what peace in the presence of God actually looks like. Verse 5 is the most striking:

Psalm 23:5 (NKJV)

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

Notice: the enemies are not removed. The problems are not resolved. The table is set in their presence. God's peace is not the peace of an empty battlefield — it is the peace of a man who has a Shepherd in the middle of the battle.

- Green pastures and still waters — the restfulness of His presence, not the perfection of the environment.
- 'He restores my soul' — peace is not about not being troubled; it is about being restored when we are.
- 'Your rod and staff comfort me' — the tools of protection bring peace, not the absence of threat.

6. Gideon's Discovery — Jehovah Shalom

Gideon's story in Judges 6 illustrates where peace is actually found. Gideon's question to the angel resonates with every generation:

Judges 6:13 (NKJV)

O my Lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? Where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about?

The answer God gives is not an explanation of the circumstances — it is a promise of His presence: 'Surely I will be with you.' Peace came not from the Midianites being removed, but from Gideon encountering the Lord Himself. He built an altar and called it Jehovah Shalom — The Lord Is Peace.

Peace comes from His presence — not from circumstances lighting up the way we want them to.

Reflection Questions



Reflection Questions

1. The teacher says he has known wealthy people with no peace and poor people with profound peace. What circumstance in your own life have you been most convinced would bring you peace if it changed? Has that proven true when circumstances have improved in the past?
2. John 16:33 says 'In Me you have peace. In the world you will have tribulation.' Which side of that equation do you currently spend more mental and emotional energy on — the peace that is available in Him, or the tribulation that is promised in the world?
3. Jesus prayed in John 17: 'I do not pray that You should take them out of the world.' Have you ever lived with a kind of escape mentality — just waiting for things to get better, or waiting to leave? How does this shift your approach to daily life?
4. Psalm 23:5 describes God preparing a table 'in the presence of my enemies' — not after they are removed. What would it mean to you to experience God's peace while the problem is still present, not after it is resolved?
5. Gideon's question — 'If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened?' — is one of the most honest questions in Scripture. Have you ever asked that question? What would a genuine encounter with Jehovah Shalom look like for you in your current situation?

Personal Application



Application Steps

1. Read Psalm 23 slowly each morning this week. As you read, intentionally notice every phrase that speaks to peace in the presence of difficulty (still waters, valley of the shadow, table before enemies). Let it reframe your understanding of what God's peace actually looks like.

2. Identify one circumstance you have been waiting on for peace — 'when this resolves, I'll have peace.' Write it down. Then bring it to God in prayer and ask Him to give you peace in the presence of that situation, not after it resolves.
3. Memorize John 16:33 this week. Let it become your daily anchor: 'In Me you have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'
4. Spend 10 minutes each day this week in simple, quiet presence with God — not with a list or a request, but simply drawing near. Notice what happens to your sense of peace as you practice resting in His presence rather than resolving your circumstances.
5. Look up 'Jehovah Shalom' and read Judges 6:11-24 in full. Meditate on the reality that the name God revealed to Gideon — The Lord Is Peace — is still His name and still His character today. How does His character as the God of Peace speak to your specific situation?

Key Terms & Concepts

Term	Definition / Significance
Shalom	Hebrew: comprehensive well-being — safety, contentment, wholeness, prosperity. The Old Testament's primary word for peace; far broader than the absence of conflict.
Eirene	Greek: peace, rest, quietness. The New Testament word Jesus uses in John 16:33 and 14:27. Includes the idea of being joined or reconciled.
Prince of Peace	Isaiah 9:6 — one of the names given to Jesus. Not merely the giver of peace but its embodiment. He does not have peace — He is Peace.
Jehovah Shalom	The name Gideon gave to the altar where he encountered God: 'The Lord Is Peace.' One of the compound names of God that reveals His character.
In Me vs. In the World	John 16:33's fundamental contrast — the source of peace (in Him, relational) vs. the source of tribulation (in the world, circumstantial). Both are real; only one produces lasting peace.
Peace That Passes Understanding	Philippians 4:7 — peace that transcends human logic or reasoning. Not produced by good circumstances but by the presence of God guarding the heart and mind.
Not As the World Gives	John 14:27 — Jesus's explicit contrast between His peace and the world's false promises of peace. His peace is permanent, unconditional, and Spirit-born; the world's is circumstantial and temporary.

Series Overview

Session	Title	Focus
1	Peace Is a Person	The foundation: peace is in Jesus alone, not circumstances. He is Jehovah Shalom.
2	The Thief of Broken Relationships	Unforgiveness and offense as primary enemies of peace. Forgiveness as a warfare strategy.
3	The Thief of Fear	Fear vs. love — how perfect love casts out fear and restores peace.
4	The Facilitator of Peace	The Holy Spirit as the One who makes God's peace real in our daily experience.
5	Abiding in the Vine	The Word of God as the daily practice of remaining in the peace of Christ.
6	Carriers of Peace	Walking in peace as a mission — how the peace of God flows through us into a troubled world.

Notes

Finding Peace in a Chaotic World

Session 2: The First Thief — Broken Relationships and Unforgiveness

Session 2 of 6

Session 2 Overview

Session 1 established that peace is found only in Jesus. Session 2 begins to identify what steals it. The first and most powerful thief the teacher identifies is broken relationships and unforgiveness. Using the Upper Room discourse in John 13 — where Jesus washed the feet of the man who would betray Him and the man who would deny Him — the teacher shows that Jesus modeled radical forgiveness before commanding it. Then Matthew 18's parable of the unforgiving servant reveals the severe consequence of holding onto offense: torment. And Colossians 3 gives the practical path back to peace.

The Anchor Scripture

John 16:33 (NKJV)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

When Jesus says 'these things I have spoken to you,' He is referring to the entire Upper Room discourse — John chapters 13 through 16. These are the things He spoke so that we would have peace. This session explores what He taught in John 13.

Key Scriptures — Session 2

John 13:4-5, 12-15, 34-35 (NKJV)

He rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet... 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example'... 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples.'

Matthew 18:21-35 (NKJV — key verses)

Then Peter came to Him and said, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven'... The master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt... 'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Romans 8:6 (NKJV)

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Colossians 3:1-2, 12-15 (NKJV)

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth... Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

Key Themes & Teaching Notes

1. 'These Things I Have Spoken to You' — What Were They?

John 16:33 closes with: 'These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.' What things? The answer is the entire upper room discourse — John 13 through 16. In these chapters, Jesus addressed the very issues that most often steal peace from believers. Session 2 focuses on John 13: relationships, betrayal, and the model of forgiveness.

2. The Most Shocking Act of the Last Supper

Most people focus on the bread and the cup at the Last Supper. What happened first: Jesus washed the disciples' feet. In that culture, foot-washing was the job of the lowest household servant. But the reason this act is so extraordinary is not the humility — it is whom He washed:

Disciple Jesus Washed	What He Knew That Night	The Statement It Makes
Judas Iscariot	'The devil had already put into the heart of Judas to betray Him' (v.2)	Jesus washed the feet of the man who would hand Him over to be crucified within hours
Simon Peter	Jesus already knew: 'Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times' (John 13:38)	Jesus washed the feet of the man who would publicly deny knowing Him three times
All the disciples	'They all forsook Him and fled' (Mark 14:50) — Jesus knew this too	Jesus washed the feet of every man who would abandon Him in His darkest hour

Then He looked at them and said: 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you.' He defined love — at the moment of greatest betrayal — as radical, unconditional forgiveness.

True love expressed in the face of betrayal is forgiveness. Jesus modeled it before He commanded it.

3. Why Unforgiveness Destroys Peace — Matthew 18

The parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18 is one of the most sobering passages in the Gospels. The teacher draws out its key dynamics:

- A servant owed an insurmountable debt — tens of millions — and was forgiven completely when he begged.
- That same servant immediately found a fellow servant who owed him a tiny amount and had him imprisoned.
- When the master heard of it, he delivered the first servant 'to the torturers until he should pay all that was due.'
- Jesus's application: 'So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother.'

The Application

The debt God forgave us — the death penalty for sin, the breach between humanity and holiness — is incomprehensibly greater than any wrong a person has done to you. The parable is not about God being vindictive. It is about spiritual reality: unforgiveness opens a door.

If you do not forgive, the 'tormentors' — demonic activity, a tormented mind, stolen peace — have legal access to you.

You can have peace right in the middle of all the problems of the world. But you cannot have it with active unforgiveness.

4. The Battle Is in the Mind

Isaiah 26:3 and Romans 8:6 point to the same battleground: the mind. The teacher shows how unforgiveness works as a mind-hijacker:

- 'You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You.' (Isaiah 26:3) — Perfect peace is tied to a mind that stays fixed on God.
- 'The mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.' (Romans 8:6)
- Unforgiveness causes the mind to constantly rehearse the offense — what they said, what they did, how it hurt. The enemy feeds this loop.
- 'The enemy uses everything possible to offend you. His goal: keep your mind so occupied that you cannot abide in the peace of Christ.'

The thief does not come with a dramatic frontal assault. He comes through a wound, a word, a perceived slight — and then turns it into an occupation of the mind that eventually evicts peace.

5. The Path Back — Colossians 3

Colossians 3 gives the believer's practical path through unforgiveness and back to peace:

Colossians 3 Command	What It Means Practically
'Set your mind on things above' (v.2)	A deliberate act of the will — redirect the mind from the replay of the offense to the reality of Christ's victory and His love
'Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility' (v.12)	The opposite of bitterness — a conscious choice to wear attitudes that create space for forgiveness
'Forgiving one another... as Christ forgave you' (v.13)	The standard is Christ's forgiveness of us — full, unconditional, based on His character not our worthiness
'Put on love' (v.14)	Love is the garment that holds everything together. Forgiveness is not a feeling — it is love in action.
'Let the peace of God rule in your hearts' (v.15)	Peace functions like an umpire — it calls the game. When we forgive, peace rules. When we hold offense, the tormentor rules.

6. Forgiveness Is a Choice, Not a Feeling

The the most common objection directly: 'But I just can't forgive what they did to me.'

- Forgiveness is not a feeling — you will almost never feel like forgiving. You feel like justice, not release.
- Forgiveness is a choice. You choose to release the debt, just as God chose to release yours.
- 'The forgiver lives in you if you're born again.' The capacity to forgive is not natural — it is supernatural, and it already lives inside every believer.
- Forgiveness is not condoning what happened. It is not pretending it didn't hurt. It is releasing the person from your internal court of judgment.
- Sometimes forgiveness must be repeated. 'If they come to mind again, forgive them again. Keep releasing. Keep forgiving.' Eventually, the wound heals and the peace returns.

Forgiveness is not for the other person. It closes the door to the enemy and returns you to the peace that is in Christ.

Reflection Questions



Reflection Questions

1. Jesus washed Judas's feet knowing Judas would betray Him within hours. What is the most difficult truth about that picture for you personally? Is there a betrayal or wound in your life that this speaks to?
2. The parable of the unforgiving servant ends with the servant being delivered to 'the torturers.' The teacher connects this to the mental torment of unforgiveness — the endless replaying of offense. Does this describe any area of your thought life right now?
3. Isaiah 26:3 says perfect peace belongs to the one whose mind is 'stayed on' God. How much of your mental bandwidth is currently occupied by an unresolved offense or broken relationship? What would happen if you redirected that same bandwidth toward God?
4. Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling — and that 'the forgiver lives in you if you're born again.' Do you believe you have the capacity to forgive the specific thing that has wounded you most? What is the obstacle?
5. Colossians 3:15 says 'let the peace of God rule in your hearts.' The word 'rule' means to umpire — to call the game. Is peace or the tormentor currently calling the game in your inner life? What one step could you take today to let peace rule again?

Personal Application

✓ Application Steps

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any person toward whom you are holding unforgiveness — even a small, unacknowledged offense. When a name or face comes to mind (it usually will), speak a prayer of release: 'Lord, I choose to forgive [name] for [what they did]. I release them from my judgment and release this offense to You.'
2. Read Matthew 18:21-35 slowly and in full this week. As you read, meditate on the contrast between the debt God forgave you and the debt you are being asked to release in others. Let the disproportion inform your willingness.
3. Practice the Colossians 3:2 command deliberately this week: when your mind drifts back to a wound or offense, intentionally redirect it. Speak the person's name and a blessing over them, then redirect your thoughts to a Scripture or a truth about God.
4. Identify the most significant broken relationship in your life. You do not need to confront the person or reconcile immediately — but choose to forgive them in your heart today. If the wound is deep, pray the teacher's suggested prayer: 'Lord, I choose to forgive and release. Heal the wound. I bless them and release them to You.'
5. Memorize Colossians 3:13: 'Forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.' Let the standard — as Christ forgave you — become your measuring rod this week.

Key Terms & Concepts

Term	Definition / Significance
Upper Room Discourse	John 13-17 — the longest recorded teaching of Jesus before the cross. What He 'spoke' in John 16:33 includes all of this — the things said to produce peace.
Washing the Feet	Jesus's act of radical humility in John 13 — performed on those He knew would betray and deny Him. The foundation for His command to forgive.
The Tormentors/Torturers	Matthew 18:34 — the consequence of refusing to forgive after being forgiven. The teacher identifies these with demonic access and mental torment that steals peace.
Unforgiveness as Mind-Thief	The teacher's description of how holding offense works: it hijacks mental bandwidth, replays the wound, and makes it impossible to keep the mind 'stayed on' God (Isaiah 26:3).

Forgiveness as Choice	The teacher's correction to the 'I can't forgive' statement. Forgiveness is not a feeling — it is a decision to release, modeled on God's unconditional forgiveness of us.
Let Peace Rule (Colossians 3:15)	The image of peace as an umpire in the believer's heart — calling the game of thoughts, decisions, and emotional responses. Forgiveness allows peace to rule; unforgiveness hands the rulership to the tormentor.
Seventy Times Seven	Jesus's answer to Peter's question about forgiveness limits (Matt. 18:22) — not a literal 490 times but an unlimited posture of ongoing release.

Connecting the Sessions

Session	Core Truth
Session 1	Peace is in Jesus alone — not in circumstances. He is the Prince of Peace, Jehovah Shalom.
Session 2	The first thief of peace is broken relationships and unforgiveness. Forgiveness is a choice that closes the door to the tormentor and restores you to the peace of Christ.
Sessions 3–6	Coming — fear, the Holy Spirit, the Word, and carrying peace into the world.

Notes

Finding Peace in a Chaotic World

Session 3: The Second Thief — Fear

Session 3 of 6

Session 3 Overview

Session 2 identified broken relationships and unforgiveness as the first thief of peace. Session 3 identifies the second: fear. The world is saturated with fear — bad reports, sudden losses, uncertain futures. The enemy's primary tool is not dramatic confrontation but a steady drip of anxiety that keeps the mind occupied and peace out of reach. This session exposes fear as a spiritual thief, shows why the antidote is not courage but love, and draws from Romans 8 to anchor believers in a love that nothing in this world can penetrate.

The Anchor Scripture

John 16:33 (NKJV)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 14:1, 27 (NKJV)

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me... Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Key Scriptures — Session 3

1 John 4:7-8, 18-19 (NKJV)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love... There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.

John 17:22-23, 26 (NKJV)

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one... And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

Romans 8:31-39 (NKJV)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Key Themes & Teaching Notes

1. Fear: 365 Reminders That It's Real

The command 'Do not fear' (or its equivalent: 'Don't be anxious, don't worry') appears in Scripture approximately 365 times — one for every day of the year. This is not coincidental.

- The enemy attacks every single day through fear — bad reports, uncertain futures, unexpected losses.
- Fear is a spirit (2 Timothy 1:7 — 'God has not given us a spirit of fear') that operates as a thief.
- Whatever you focus on, that's what you become.' Fear focused on grows. Fear given attention multiplies.
- John 10:10 — the thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Fear is one of his primary instruments for stealing peace.

Fear is the enemy of peace. It is not a neutral emotion — it is a tool of the thief, designed to steal your today.

2. The Thief of Yesterday and the Thief of Tomorrow

'Jesus was crucified between two thieves — a thief of yesterday and a thief of tomorrow.'

The Thief of Yesterday	The Thief of Tomorrow
Offense and bitterness — 'Remember what they did to you?'	Anxiety and dread — 'What if this happens? What if that goes wrong?'
Replay of past wounds	Projection of future disasters
Steals peace through what was	Steals peace through what might be
Result: resentment, unforgiveness, bitterness	Result: anxiety, worry, control, dread

Both thieves have the same goal: steal today. 'Today is all you have. Today you can enjoy the peace of God. The thief of offense and the thief of anxiety are both trying to get you out of the peace of God.'

3. The Antidote Is Not Courage — It's Love

This is the session's central insight, drawn from 1 John 4:18: 'There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.' The teacher draws a critical distinction:

- The solution to fear is not willpower, positive thinking, or 'being brave.'
- The solution is not even prayer for God to remove the fear.
- The solution is a revelation of the Father's love that is so real and so pervasive that fear has no room to occupy.
- 'Perfect love casts out fear.' Not disciplines it, not suppresses it, not manages it — casts it out.

Insight

Whatever you focus on, that's what you become. If you focus on the fear, the fear grows larger.

But if you focus on His love — the love that sent Jesus to die for you before you did a single thing to deserve it — the fear is displaced.

The answer is not 'focus on not being afraid.' The answer is 'focus on how loved you are.' Perfect love produces perfect peace.

4. God Is Not Just Loving — He Is Love

1 John 4:8 makes a statement that distinguishes God's love from everything we have ever experienced: 'God is love.' Not 'God loves' (though He does). He is love. His very essence is love.

- He does not generate love when circumstances merit it. Love is not a response for Him — it is His nature.
- 'This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son.' (1 John 4:10) — His love is initiating, unconditional, and permanent.
- John 17:26 — Jesus prays that 'the love with which You loved Me may be in them.' The same quality of love the Father has for the Son is available to us.
- You cannot earn this love. You cannot lose it. It is His nature — and it is directed toward you.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

5. Romans 8 — Nothing Can Separate You

Romans 8:31-39 is one of the most powerful anti-fear passages in Scripture. Its logic is ironclad:

The Question Paul Asks	The Answer That Destroys Fear
'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (v.31)	If the Almighty God is on your side, what earthly threat — however real — ultimately has final authority over you?
'How shall He not also freely give us all things?' (v.32)	He did not withhold His most precious gift — His Son. No lesser gift will be withheld from those who are His.
'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?' (v.35)	Paul answers his own question with a list: tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, danger — and then says: nothing in this list can do it.
'I am persuaded' (v.38)	This is not wishful thinking — it is settled conviction. Nothing — death, life, angels, powers, present, future, height, depth — can break the connection.

There is nothing in this world that can separate us from His love. There is nothing. And perfect love casts out fear. So the question is — how much of His love are you actually living in?

6. Control as a Manifestation of Fear

Many believers miss the idea that the need to control is rooted in fear. 'If I can control everything, then I'm going to be okay.'

- Control is fear wearing a practical disguise. It says: 'I don't trust God to handle this, so I will handle it myself.'

- Perfect love — the settled knowing that the Father is for you, that nothing can separate you from Him — is the only cure for the control impulse.
- When you truly know you are loved by a God who has all things under His feet, you can release control because you trust the One who holds it.

Perfect love casts out fear. And perfect love is not something you generate — it is something you receive. The Father offers it freely.

Reflection Questions



Reflection Questions

1. Whatever you focus on, that's what you become. In the last week, what have you been focusing on more — the fears and uncertainties in your life, or the love of the Father? What has been the effect on your peace?
2. Which thief is more active in your life right now — the thief of yesterday (offense, bitterness, replay of wounds) or the thief of tomorrow (anxiety, dread, fear of what might happen)? How is that thief stealing your today?
3. 1 John 4:18 says 'perfect love casts out fear.' This means we should focus not on fighting the fear but on receiving the love. What would it mean practically to respond to your current fears by focusing on the Father's love rather than the fear itself?
4. Romans 8:31-39 lists tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and sword — and then says none of them can separate us from God's love. What is on your personal 'list' right now — the things that most threaten your peace? How does Romans 8:38-39 speak to that list?
5. The teacher identifies control as a manifestation of fear. Is there an area of your life where your need to control is actually a symptom of fear? What would it look like to release that control in trust to a Father who loves you and has all things under His feet?

Personal Application



Application Steps

1. Read 1 John 4:7-19 slowly each morning this week, focusing specifically on the statement 'God is love' and the implication that perfect love casts out fear. After you read, spend two minutes simply receiving — not asking, not confessing, just receiving the reality that you are loved by Love Himself.
2. When a fearful thought arises this week, practice a conscious redirect: instead of analyzing the fear, speak Romans 8:38-39 aloud. '_____ cannot separate me from

the love of God which is in Christ Jesus my Lord.' Fill in the blank with whatever fear is presenting itself.

3. Pray Ephesians 3:14-19 over yourself this week — Paul's prayer that believers would 'know the love of Christ which passes knowledge.' Pray it as a personal request: 'Lord, let me know the width and length and depth and height of Your love — not as information but as revelation.'
4. Identify the specific fear that most consistently steals your peace. Write it down. Then write Romans 8:31 beside it: 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' Hold those two truths side by side and ask God to make His answer feel more real than the fear.
5. Memorize 1 John 4:18: 'There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.' Use it as your antidote this week every time anxiety or dread arises. Let it redirect your focus from the threat to the Love that is greater than any threat.

Key Terms & Concepts

Term	Definition / Significance
Fear as Thief	The teacher's framing of fear (John 10:10 applied) — the enemy uses fear not to win battles but to steal peace, presence, and today from believers.
God Is Love	1 John 4:8 — not 'God loves' but 'God is love.' His nature is love. This means His love is not conditional on circumstances or performance — it is His essence.
Perfect Love Casts Out Fear	1 John 4:18 — the only true antidote to fear. Not willpower, not self-discipline, not prayer for the fear to leave — but a revelation of love so complete that fear is displaced.
Thief of Yesterday / Tomorrow	The teacher's metaphor for the two primary forms fear takes: offense/bitterness over the past and anxiety/dread about the future. Both steal the peace available today.
Control as Fear	The teacher's identification of the need to control as a disguised form of fear — the belief that if I manage everything, I'll be safe. Perfect love is the cure: trusting the One who truly holds everything.
Romans 8:38-39	Paul's comprehensive declaration that nothing in all of creation can separate the believer from the love of God. The theological foundation for a fearless life.
'I Am Persuaded'	Romans 8:38 — Paul's language of settled conviction, not hope. Not 'I think nothing can separate us' but 'I am completely persuaded.' This is the posture fear cannot occupy.

Connecting the Sessions

Session	Core Truth
Session 1	Peace is in Jesus alone. He is the Prince of Peace, Jehovah Shalom.
Session 2	First thief: broken relationships and unforgiveness. Forgiveness closes the door; love rules.
Session 3	Second thief: fear. The antidote is not courage but a revelation of perfect love. Nothing can separate you from the love of God.
Sessions 4–6	Coming — the Holy Spirit, the Word, and carrying peace into the world.

Notes

Finding Peace in a Chaotic World

Session 4: The Facilitator of Peace — The Holy Spirit

Session 4 of 6

Session 4 Overview

Sessions 2 and 3 identified what steals peace: broken relationships, unforgiveness, and fear. Session 4 turns to what facilitates peace — the One who makes everything real in practice. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as a Helper, Comforter, Counselor, and Advocate. He is God with us. It is the Holy Spirit who takes the truth about the Father's love and transforms it from information to revelation — from something we know about to something we live in. Without Him, peace remains theoretical. With Him, it becomes experiential.

The Anchor Scripture

John 16:33 (NKJV)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Key Scriptures — Session 4

John 14:12-18 (NKJV)

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father... If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 16:7-15 (NKJV)

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you... When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

Acts 1:4-5, 8 (NKJV)

He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father... for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 19:1-6 (NKJV — key verses)

And finding some disciples, he said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' So they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?'... And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Romans 5:5 (NKJV)

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 8:15-16 (NKJV)

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Key Themes & Teaching Notes

1. The Helper He Promised — A Person, Not a Power

In John 14:16, Jesus introduces the Holy Spirit with a specific title: *parakletos* — often translated 'Helper,' but note that no single English word can fully capture what this means. He is all of these simultaneously:

Translation	What It Reveals About the Holy Spirit
Helper	He assists, supports, and equips — He comes alongside to help where we cannot help ourselves
Comforter	He soothes, strengthens, and brings rest — the peace of God made present and tangible
Counselor	He advises, guides, and speaks with wisdom — He knows what we need before we do
Advocate	He pleads our case — He stands with us, not against us
Standby	He is always there — 'that He may abide with you forever' (v.16)
Intercessor	He prays on our behalf — 'the Spirit Himself intercedes for us' (Romans 8:26)

The Spirit is not a theological construct — He is a Person. He is God in the Spirit. And He has come to stay.

2. 'It Is to Your Advantage That I Go Away'

John 16:7 contains one of the most surprising statements in the Gospels. Jesus tells His disciples that His departure is better for them than His continued physical presence. The disciples must have been stunned.

- Jesus in the flesh could only be in one place at one time.
- The Holy Spirit — God in the Spirit — can be in every believer simultaneously, in every place, at every moment.
- 'He is just as much God as Jesus was walking on the face of the earth, and just as much as the Father is in heaven.'
- This is the 'advantage': every believer, everywhere, in every generation, has access to the same God who walked with twelve disciples in first-century Israel.

The Holy Spirit is not a lesser presence. He is God with you — as fully and completely as Jesus was God with His disciples.

3. The Holy Spirit Makes the Love of God Real — Not Just True

Romans 5:5 contains a phrase the teacher considers central to walking in peace: 'The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.' Notice the distinction:

- God's love is objectively true whether or not we feel it. Romans 5:8 — 'God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'
- But the Holy Spirit is the delivery mechanism — the One who takes truth about the Father's love and makes it personal, experienced, and alive.
- The teacher's testimony: 'I grew up in church. I believed in Jesus. But after receiving the Holy Spirit in 1982, the love of God became real to me — not just information but revelation.'
- The difference between knowing about love and living in love is the Holy Spirit.

The Teacher's Testimony

I had no victory in my Christian life before receiving the Holy Spirit. I believed in Jesus, read my Bible, went to church — but something was missing.

When I yielded myself completely to the Holy Spirit, everything changed. Peace flooded in. The love of the Father became real — not a doctrine but an experience.

I don't want you to just know about the Holy Spirit. He is God with you. He is real. He wants to make everything that Jesus promised a living reality in your life.

4. The Spirit of Adoption — 'Abba, Father'

Romans 8:15-16 reveals one of the Holy Spirit's most important functions: He is the Spirit of adoption, who enables believers to cry 'Abba, Father' — the Aramaic word for 'Daddy.'

- 'You did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption.'
- The contrast is explicit: the Spirit of adoption displaces the spirit of fear. They cannot coexist. When we live in the Spirit's adoption-reality, fear loses its grip.
- The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God — not based on performance, but on position. He confirms it.
- This is why Session 3's answer to fear — the Father's love — is accessed through the Holy Spirit. He is the one who makes the Father's love personally felt.

5. Paul's Question to the Ephesian Disciples — And to Us

Acts 19:2 records Paul's first question upon finding disciples at Ephesus: 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?'

- The Ephesian disciples had only been baptized into John's baptism — repentance. They had not yet received the Spirit.
- When Paul laid hands on them, they received the Spirit and were immediately changed.
- 'Have you fully, completely, unreservedly yielded your life to the Holy Spirit? Not as a theory, not as a doctrine — but as a Person who lives in you?'

The Same Question for Every Believer

It is possible to believe in Jesus and not yet have fully received the Holy Spirit. Paul didn't ask: 'Are you a good person? Are you moral? Do you attend church?' He asked: 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' Have you? Not as theology — as experience?

6. How the Holy Spirit Produces Peace — Practically

A practical summary of how the Holy Spirit produces and sustains peace:

The Holy Spirit's Role	How It Produces Peace
Pours out the Father's love (Romans 5:5)	Makes God's love experiential, not just theological — love displaces fear, which restores peace
Bears witness of sonship (Romans 8:15-16)	Confirms our identity as beloved children — removes the performance anxiety that creates fear
Guides into all truth (John 16:13)	The Spirit leads us through the Word to a knowledge of Christ that abides — and in abiding, there is peace
Comes alongside as Helper (John 14:16)	We are not alone in any moment — He is present with comfort, counsel, and support in every situation
Makes the love of the Father real	The gap between knowing about God's love and living in it is bridged by the Holy Spirit's ongoing revelation

Holy Spirit Encounter — Personal Assessment

Before the application steps, take a moment to prayerfully answer the question Paul asked at Ephesus:

Paul's Question — Your Answer

'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' (Acts 19:2)

Consider: Have I ever fully, unreservedly yielded myself to the Holy Spirit — not just believed He exists, but opened every door to Him?
Have I asked Him to fill me, lead me, and make the love of the Father real in my daily experience?
Is the Holy Spirit a theological category in my life — or a living, active presence I commune with daily?

If your honest answer is 'no' or 'I'm not sure,' today is your invitation. There is no formula. Simply say: 'Lord, I want everything You have. Holy Spirit, I yield myself fully to You. Fill me. Lead me. Make the Father's love real in me.'

Reflection Questions



Reflection Questions

1. Jesus said in John 16:7 that it was to the disciples' advantage that He go away — because the Spirit would come. The disciples couldn't imagine how that was possible. Looking at your own spiritual life, do you experience the Holy Spirit as an advantage — as God with you? Or has He been more of a background theological concept?
2. Romans 5:5 says 'the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.' What is the difference between knowing that God loves you (information) and living in the reality of that love (revelation)? Which do you currently have — and what do you need?
3. Romans 8:15 says the Spirit of adoption enables us to cry 'Abba, Father' — Daddy. Does that kind of intimate familiarity with the Father feel natural to you, or foreign? What has shaped that?
4. The Holy Spirit is the 'delivery system' for the peace of God — that peace remains theoretical until the Spirit makes it real. Is the peace of God a theory or a lived reality in your daily experience right now? What is the gap?
5. Paul's first question to the Ephesian disciples was not about their theology or moral life — it was 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' How would you honestly answer that question today — not doctrinally, but experientially?

Personal Application



Application Steps

1. If you have never been baptized in the Holy Spirit, or if you have not fully yielded your life to Him, do that today. There is no elaborate process — simply open yourself completely: 'Lord, I want everything You have. Holy Spirit, I yield myself to You. Fill me from the top of my head to the tip of my toes. Lead me, guide me, make the Father's love real in me.'

2. If you have been filled with the Holy Spirit, ask God to refill you this week. Ephesians 5:18 says 'be filled with the Spirit' — in the continuous present tense. The filling is meant to be ongoing, not a one-time event. Ask daily: 'Holy Spirit, fill me again today.'
3. Read Romans 8:14-17 slowly this week and sit with verse 15: 'You received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry Abba, Father.' Practice using that language in prayer this week — not 'Lord' or 'Father' but 'Abba.' Let the intimacy it implies become natural.
4. Practice 'checking in' with the Holy Spirit throughout the day this week — before a meeting, a difficult conversation, or a challenging situation, pause and say: 'Holy Spirit, You're with me. Lead me. Guide me. Help me.' Notice what changes.
5. Read John 14:16-18 and John 16:7-15 this week as a meditation on who the Holy Spirit actually is. In your own words, write down three things about Him that stand out. Let this become a growing understanding of the Person who is God with you.

Key Terms & Concepts

Term	Definition / Significance
Parakletos	Greek word translated as Helper, Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, Standby. Literally 'one called alongside to help.' The title Jesus gave the Holy Spirit in John 14:16.
'It Is to Your Advantage'	John 16:7 — Jesus's counterintuitive promise. The Holy Spirit's omnipresent indwelling is a greater advantage than His localized physical presence was.
Spirit of Adoption	Romans 8:15 — the Holy Spirit's role in confirming and making experiential our identity as children of God. He displaces the spirit of fear and enables intimacy with the Father.
Abba	Aramaic: Daddy. The most intimate form of address for a father. The Spirit of adoption enables us to approach God with this kind of intimate familiarity (Romans 8:15).
'Did You Receive the Holy Spirit?'	Paul's question to the Ephesian disciples (Acts 19:2) — the teacher applies it to every believer as an invitation to move from intellectual belief about the Spirit to experiential reception.
Baptism of the Holy Spirit	The empowering encounter with the Spirit described in Acts 1:5, 8 and Acts 2. The teacher distinguishes this from salvation — a distinct empowering that the disciples were commanded to wait for before engaging in ministry.
Delivery System	The teacher's description of the Holy Spirit's function: He takes the objective truth of the Father's love and delivers it as subjective experience — transforming theology into revelation.

Connecting the Sessions

Session	Core Truth
Session 1	Peace is in Jesus alone. He is the Prince of Peace, Jehovah Shalom.
Session 2	First thief: broken relationships and unforgiveness. Forgiveness is a warfare strategy.
Session 3	Second thief: fear. The antidote is perfect love — a revelation of the Father's love that casts out fear.
Session 4	The facilitator: the Holy Spirit. He is God with us — making the Father's love real, confirming our sonship, guiding us into truth, and delivering the peace of God into daily experience.
Sessions 5–6	Coming — abiding in the Word, and carrying peace into the world.

Notes

Finding Peace in a Chaotic World

Session 5: Abiding in the Vine — The Word and Peace

Session 5 of 6

Session 5 Overview

Session 4 introduced the Holy Spirit as the facilitator who makes peace real. Session 5 turns to the daily practice through which peace is sustained: abiding in the Word of God. We see from John 15 that abiding is not striving — it is remaining, dwelling, staying connected to the source. And the source — Jesus, the living Word — is where peace lives. The Word of God is not ink on paper; it is alive, it is Jesus Himself, and when we dwell in it, we are dwelling in Him.

The Anchor Scripture

John 16:33 (NKJV)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Key Scriptures — Session 5

John 15:4-8 (NKJV)

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing... If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

John 8:31-32 (NKJV)

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'

Luke 4:1-4 (NKJV)

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil... And the devil said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Psalms 119:165 (NKJV)

Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.

Key Themes & Teaching Notes

1. The Practical Question: How Do I Live in Peace Daily?

The series has established: peace is in Jesus. The thieves are unforgiveness and fear. The Holy Spirit is the facilitator. But the practical question remains: how does a believer actually maintain peace day to day, in a world that consistently generates tribulation?

Abide in the vine. Specifically — through the Word of God, guided by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is who makes peace real. The Word of God is how you stay in it.

2. Abide — What It Actually Means

The word 'abide' (Greek: meno) is the key word in John 15:

What 'Abide' Means	What It Means Practically
Remain	Don't leave. Stay put in the relationship with Jesus — don't drift away when life gets hard.
Dwell	This is your home. You don't just visit; you live here — in His presence, in His Word, in His love.
Sojourn	Even when you're passing through difficult seasons, you remain connected to the source.
Stay	It is an ongoing posture — not a one-time decision but a continuous choosing to remain.

The branch does not strain to produce fruit. It simply stays connected to the vine and the life flows naturally. Abiding is the opposite of striving. Peace is not produced by trying harder — it is produced by staying closer.

3. The Word Is Alive — Not a Book, a Person

Why is the Word of God so central to abiding in peace? Because the Word of God is not a text — it is a Person.

- John 1:1 — 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'
- John 1:14 — 'The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.' Jesus is the Word incarnate.
- Revelation 19:13 — 'His name is called The Word of God.' At the end of all things, this is still His name.
- Hebrews 4:12 — 'The word of God is living and powerful.' Not was — is. Present tense. Right now.

When you open your Bible and read it with the Holy Spirit guiding you, you are not reading a book. You are encountering a Person. And in that Person — the living Word — there is peace.

4. Jesus's Model in the Wilderness — The Word vs. the Enemy

Luke 4 shows Jesus immediately after His baptism and the Father's declaration: 'You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.' Forty days later, hungry and in the wilderness, the enemy comes with three temptations. The teacher highlights the pattern:

The Enemy's Strategy	Jesus's Response	The Principle
'If You are the Son of God...' — challenges the identity the Father just declared	'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God'	When identity is attacked, the answer is the Word — not debate, not demonstration, not cleverness. The Word.
'Worship me and I'll give you all the kingdoms'	'It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve'	When tempted by shortcuts and worldly solutions, the Word is the anchor to God's way.
'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down — angels will catch you'	'It is said, You shall not tempt the Lord your God'	When the enemy uses Scripture against us, we counter with Scripture rightly handled.

The teacher's observation: Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit AND grounded in the Word. The Spirit and truth together — this is the combination that produces sustainable, unshakeable peace.

5. Spirit AND Truth — Not Either/Or

John 4:24 — 'God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.'

- The Holy Spirit without the Word becomes emotionalism — experience without anchor, feeling without foundation.
- The Word without the Holy Spirit becomes legalism — knowledge without life, information without transformation.
- Together — the Holy Spirit guiding us into the living Word — this is the path to abiding in Christ and the peace that only He can give.
- 'He leads us and guides us in truth. And that truth is going to make us free.' (John 8:32)

6. Psalm 119:165 — The Promise of the Word-Dweller

One of the most direct promises in all of Scripture about the connection between the Word and peace:

Psalm 119:165 (NKJV)

Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.

- Not a little peace — great peace. A peace that is substantial, durable, and abundant.

- Not to those who know the law or obey the law — to those who love it. Love involves a relationship, not just a discipline.
- 'Nothing causes them to stumble' — the Word-lover is not untested. They face the same world. But they have a stability that the world cannot dislodge.

The Practical Summary

You want to walk in peace? Forgive — close the door to the tormentor.

You want to stay in peace? Embrace the Holy Spirit — let Him make the Father's love real.

You want peace to be sustained? Abide in the Word — dwell in the living presence of Jesus through His Word, guided by His Spirit.

This is not striving. This is remaining. The peace is already in Him. You just have to stay there.

Reflection Questions



Reflection Questions

1. There is a difference between abiding and striving — peace is not produced by trying harder but by staying closer. Which describes your current relationship with Christ more accurately? Are you striving for peace or abiding in it?
2. Hebrews 4:12 says the Word of God is 'living and powerful' — present tense. When you read Scripture, does it feel like an encounter with a living Person or a study of a historical document? What would change if you approached it differently?
3. Jesus's answer to every temptation in the wilderness was 'It is written.' How stocked is your mind with Scripture right now? If the enemy attacked your peace today with a specific lie, do you have a specific verse that directly counters it? If not, what would you need to change?
4. John 4:24 says we must worship in spirit and truth — both together. In your spiritual life, do you lean more toward the experiential (Spirit) or the intellectual (truth)? What does the missing element produce in your life when it is absent?
5. Psalm 119:165 — 'Great peace have those who love Your law.' The word is love, not just obey. Do you love the Word? What does your relationship with Scripture reveal about how much you actually love the One who is the Word?

Personal Application

✓ Application Steps

1. Commit to a daily 'abiding' time in the Word this week — not a reading plan or a checklist, but a time of dwelling. Read a passage slowly, ask the Holy Spirit to speak through it, and stay with what He shows you. Quantity matters less than presence.
2. Memorize Psalm 119:165 this week: 'Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.' Let it become both a promise and a diagnostic — great peace is the evidence of a life dwelling in the Word.
3. Take one Scripture that directly addresses your current primary fear or source of stress. Write it out. Read it aloud every morning and evening this week. Ask the Holy Spirit to make it revelation, not just information.
4. Practice combining Spirit and Word: before reading Scripture each day this week, pause and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your reading. Pray simply: 'Holy Spirit, You are the Spirit of truth. Open my eyes to what You want to show me today.' Then read with expectation.
5. Read John 15:4-8 and John 8:31-32 together this week as a pair. Meditate on the direct connection Jesus makes between abiding in His Word and knowing the truth — and between knowing the truth and being free. Ask: What truth am I most in need of knowing right now? Where would abiding in the Word speak directly to that?

Key Terms & Concepts

Term	Definition / Significance
Abide (meno)	Greek: to remain, dwell, stay, sojourn. The key word in John 15 — describes the continuous, ongoing posture of staying connected to Jesus as the source of all life and peace.
The Living Word	The teacher's foundational insight: the Bible is not a static text — it is alive because Jesus IS the Word (John 1:1, 14; Rev. 19:13). Reading Scripture is encountering a Person.
Spirit and Truth	John 4:24 — the two elements of true worship and true abiding. The Holy Spirit without the Word produces unanchored emotion; the Word without the Spirit produces lifeless knowledge. Together they produce transformation.
'It Is Written'	Jesus's weapon of choice in Luke 4 — the specific Word of God spoken against specific lies. The teacher's model for how believers counter fear, temptation, and enemy attack.
Psalm 119:165	The great promise to Word-lovers: 'Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.' Dwelling in the Word produces a peace that is unshakeable under pressure.

Abiding vs. Striving	The teacher's distinction: peace is not earned by discipline or effort — it is received by remaining. The branch does not strain to produce fruit; it stays connected to the vine.
John 8:31-32	'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.' Abiding in the Word is the path to the truth that sets free.

Connecting the Sessions

Session	Core Truth
Session 1	Peace is in Jesus alone. He is the Prince of Peace, Jehovah Shalom.
Session 2	First thief: broken relationships and unforgiveness. Forgiveness is a warfare strategy.
Session 3	Second thief: fear. Perfect love — received through the Holy Spirit — casts it out.
Session 4	The facilitator: the Holy Spirit. He makes the Father's love real and guides us into truth.
Session 5	The practice: abide in the Word. The Word is living; dwelling in it is dwelling in Jesus. Great peace belongs to those who love the Word.
Session 6	Coming — carrying peace into the world: from receiving to releasing.

Notes

Finding Peace in a Chaotic World

Session 6: Carriers of Peace — Going Out Into the World

Session 6 of 6 | Series Finale

Session 6 Overview

The series has moved from receiving peace to sustaining it. Session 6 reaches its climax: the peace we have received is not just for us. We are sent into the world as carriers of the peace of God — salt and light in a chaotic environment that desperately needs what we have. The world will hate us. Conflict will come. But in the words of Jesus: 'Be of good cheer — I have overcome the world.' This session shows what it means to be a peacemaker, how peace flows through us to others, and what it looks like to storm the darkness with the light of His presence.

The Anchor Scripture — One Final Time

John 16:33 (NKJV)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

'Be of good cheer' — the teacher unpacks this phrase in the closing session. In the original Greek, it means to take courage, to have confidence, to be bold. Not passive contentment — active confidence. Because He has overcome the world.

Key Scriptures — Session 6

John 15:18-20 (NKJV)

If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.

John 17:15, 18 (NKJV)

I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one... As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NKJV)

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?... You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 10:7-8, 12-13 (NKJV)

And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give... When you go into a household, greet it. If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it.

Romans 14:17 (NKJV)

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 5:9 (NKJV)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Key Themes & Teaching Notes

1. You Are Sent — Not Kept

The entire series has been building toward this conclusion. John 17:15 and 18 form the bookends: Jesus prays for our protection in the world, not our removal from it — and then explicitly says: 'As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.'

- The world is where we are called to be. Not to escape it, not to hide from it, not to wait for it to improve.
- 'If we knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow, we would still be called to do the same thing today: be His representative on earth.'
- The purpose of receiving peace is to become a carrier of peace — bringing what God has given us into the environments that most need it.

Peace is not just for you. It is the most distinctive thing about you — and the world desperately needs it.

2. The World Will Hate You — and That Is Expected

John 15:18-20 contains the sobering context for our sending. Jesus does not send us into a welcoming world. He sends us into a world that hated Him first.

- 'If the world hates you, know that it hated Me before it hated you.'
- This is not meant to discourage — it is meant to calibrate expectations. Conflict, rejection, and opposition are not signs that something has gone wrong. They are signs that we are in the right place.
- The believer walking in God's peace in the midst of a hostile world is the most powerful apologetic possible. The world offers fear, anxiety, and chaos. We offer something they have never seen: peace that passes understanding, in the presence of the storm.

3. Salt and Light — What We Already Are

Jesus's declaration in Matthew 5 is not a command to become something — it is a statement of what every believer already is: 'You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.'

What We Are	How Peace Makes It Visible
Salt	Salt preserves what it touches. Believers walking in peace slow the decay around them — in homes, workplaces, communities.
Light	Light does not fight darkness — it displaces it. A person walking in genuine peace is light in an anxious, fearful world.
A City on a Hill	You cannot hide it. When someone carries the genuine peace of God, it is visible — people notice something is different.
Good Works (that glorify the Father)	The visible evidence of peace — kindness, patience, forgiveness, generosity — is what draws attention to the Father.

'The primary way you live differently in this perverse generation is peace. When you walk in peace, the rest of the world recognizes there's something different about you — because they're not walking in peace.'

4. 'Let Your Peace Come Upon It' — Matthew 10

Matthew 10:12-13 contains a phrase that the teacher draws out: 'When you go into a household, greet it. If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it.'

- Jesus is commissioning the Twelve to go out as kingdom representatives. He is instructing them to bring peace — to release it — into the places they enter.
- The kingdom of God, according to Romans 14:17, is 'righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.' Peace is not peripheral to the kingdom — it is central to it.
- We are not passive recipients of peace. We are carriers, dispensers, releasers of it.
- 'Everywhere you go, you bring peace. You bring it into your home, your church, your marketplace, your neighborhood, your conversations.' This is not automatic — it requires walking in it.

Picture This

Jesus is in a boat, asleep in a storm that terrifies professional fishermen. He wakes, speaks two words — 'Peace, be still' — and the storm ceases. The Prince of Peace lives in us. As He is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:17). When you walk into a room carrying the peace of God, it can affect the atmosphere — because you are carrying the One who stills storms.

5. Take Courage — Not Passive Peace

'Be of good cheer' (John 16:33) is a call to active, confident engagement — not passive resignation. The Greek word is *tharseite* — take courage, be bold, have confidence. The teacher draws the distinction:

Passive Peace	Active Peace (Courage)
Withdraw from the world's noise	Engage the world with the confidence of one who knows the outcome
'I'll try to stay calm'	'I have peace — and I will bring it wherever I go'
Avoid conflict and difficulty	Enter conflict and difficulty as a peacemaker, not a fighter
Wait for the world to improve before engaging	Engage now, because He has already overcome

- 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.' (Matthew 5:9) — peacemakers are active, not passive. They make peace where it does not naturally exist.
- The world does not need more angry reactions to its chaos. It needs people who have found the source of peace and carry it openly.

6. The Complete Path — From Receiving to Releasing

Stage	What It Looks Like
Find the source	Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Peace is in Him — not in circumstances. Receive it.
Close the thieves' doors	Forgive — close the door to unforgiveness. Receive love — cast out fear.
Receive the facilitator	Yield fully to the Holy Spirit. Let Him make the Father's love real and guide you into truth.
Stay in the source	Abide in the Word daily. 'Great peace have those who love Your law.'
Carry it out	Go into the world as a carrier of peace. Salt. Light. Peacemaker. Ambassador.

Peace within you. Peace around you. Peace through you. This is what God intends for every believer in a chaotic world.

Reflection Questions



Reflection Questions

1. The primary way you live distinctively in this generation is peace. Of all the things that identify you as a believer in your daily life, how prominent is peace? When people encounter you at work, at home, or in your community — do they encounter someone who is noticeably at peace?
2. Jesus said 'let your peace come upon' a household when entering it (Matthew 10:12). Have you ever thought of yourself as someone who brings peace to a room or a situation — rather than just someone trying to maintain personal peace? What is the difference?
3. John 15:18-20 says the world will hate believers as it hated Jesus. Has the expectation of opposition ever pulled you back from engaging — from being salt and light in a specific environment? What would it mean to engage anyway?
4. Romans 14:17 says the kingdom of God is 'righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.' Of these three, peace seems most needed in today's world. Are you currently a carrier of that kingdom reality — or are you still primarily trying to receive enough for yourself?
5. 'Peace within you. Peace around you. Peace through you.' Where are you in that progression? Which dimension most needs to grow — the internal foundation, the immediate relational environment, or the outward carrying of peace into the world?

Personal Application — Final Session

✓ Application Steps

1. Identify one relationship, workplace, or community environment where you consistently encounter chaos, anxiety, or conflict. This week, consciously enter that environment as a carrier of peace — not as someone trying to fix things, but as someone abiding in the One who has already overcome. Pray before entering: 'Lord, let Your peace flow through me into this situation.'
2. Practice Matthew 10:12 literally this week: when you enter a home, a workplace, or a gathering, silently release peace over it. 'Lord, let Your peace come upon this place.' Notice what happens over time as you carry this posture consistently.
3. Read Matthew 5:9 and sit with it: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.' Identify one situation this week where you can actively make peace — not just keep it personally, but create it where it is absent. What would that look like practically?
4. Write a personal declaration that captures the series in your own words — the source of your peace, how you maintain it, and your commitment to carry it into the world. Keep it somewhere visible as a daily reminder of what God has deposited in you.
5. Share this series with someone who needs it. The message of peace — that it is available in Christ, not in circumstances, not contingent on the world improving — is one of the most needed messages in our generation. Who in your garden needs to hear it?

Key Terms & Concepts — Session 6

Term	Definition / Significance
'Be of Good Cheer' (tharseite)	Greek: take courage, be bold, have confidence. Not passive contentment but active, confident engagement — because He has overcome.
Carrier of Peace	The teacher's description of the believer's mission: not just to receive peace but to release it — bringing the presence of the Prince of Peace into every environment entered.
Salt and Light	Matthew 5:13-16 — what every believer already is. Salt preserves; light displaces darkness. Peace is the primary way both function visibly in a believer's life.
Peacemaker	Matthew 5:9 — not passive peace-keeping but active peace-making: creating peace where it does not exist. Called 'sons of God' — reflecting the Father's character.

'Let Your Peace Come Upon It'	Matthew 10:12 — Jesus's instruction to the disciples: release peace intentionally into the households and environments you enter. Peace is transferable.
Kingdom = Righteousness, Peace, Joy	Romans 14:17 — the definition of the kingdom of God. Peace is not peripheral to the kingdom mission; it is its content and calling card.
Peace Within, Around, Through	The teacher's three-stage summary: internal foundation (peace within), relational sphere (peace around), missional outflow (peace through you to the world).

Complete Series Summary

Session	Title	Core Truth
1	Peace Is a Person	Peace is in Jesus alone — not circumstances. He is the Prince of Peace. In Me you have peace; in the world you have tribulation.
2	The First Thief	Broken relationships and unforgiveness steal peace. Forgiveness is a choice — and a warfare strategy — that closes the enemy's door.
3	The Second Thief	Fear steals peace. The antidote is not courage but perfect love — a revelation of the Father's love so real that fear is displaced.
4	The Facilitator	The Holy Spirit makes peace real — not just true. He pours the Father's love into our hearts and confirms our identity as beloved children.
5	Abiding in the Vine	The Word of God is how we stay in peace. The Word is alive; dwelling in it is dwelling in Jesus. Great peace belongs to those who love the Word.
6	Carriers of Peace	Peace is not just for us. We are sent into the world as salt, light, and peacemakers — carrying what we have received into the chaos around us.

A Word to Close the Series

In this world, you will have tribulation. That is not a warning that something has gone wrong — it is a certainty that confirms you are in the right place.

But in Him — in Jesus, the Prince of Peace, Jehovah Shalom — you have peace. Real, durable, unconditional peace that no circumstance can take from you.

Close the doors: forgive freely, receive love fully.

Stay in the source: abide in the Word, walk with the Holy Spirit.
And then go — as He was sent — into the world that needs what you carry.
Be of good cheer. He has overcome the world.

**In Me you have peace. In the world you have tribulation. Be of good
cheer — I have overcome the world. — John 16:33**

Notes
