

Week 43– Questions to Consider

Psalm 120-122 ~ Proverbs 25:15-28

Small Group Warm Up Question:

How are you trying to share God's truth and love with the next generation?

1. Do “lying lips” bother you? Why? Why do some people thrive off of conflict? How have you learned to navigate, avoid, or restrain those who gossip, lie, or love to provoke conflict? (Psalms 120) What is it like when you finally encounter peace?
2. Read Psalm 121:1-2. This is a Psalm that would be recited when climbing up to the temple to worship God in Jerusalem. Why do you think the Psalmist begins this way? When we walk, how does the focus of our eyes affect us? What does it look like to set the “eyes” of our heart on God? When we go to God in prayer for help, why is remembering Him as Creator so powerful?
3. How does the rest of Psalm 121 comfort you about who God is and how he works?
4. How would you explain to a non-Christian the purpose of church? How would you encourage a new Christian about the importance of going to church? What gets you excited about going to church? What can steal our joy in going to church? (Psalm 122)
5. What does it mean that a “soft tongue will break a bone”? (Proverbs 25:15) Why is speaking softly so challenging at times? Why is it often so effective?
6. Read Proverbs 25:21-22. What are some practical ways you have sought to love on your “enemy”? Why would such love be like “burning coals on his head”? Even if our enemy does not respond well to such love, how does receiving the Lord's “reward” encourage you? Read Romans 5:8-10. When did God love us?
7. Middle eastern roofs were often flat, uncomfortable (with exposure to the sun and elements), with dirty corners (where dust and debris accumulates). Similarly, why is marital conflict so hard? (Proverbs 25:24) What are some good techniques you have learned to better love and communicate with your spouse?
8. In what parts of your life do you desire more self-control? How does the imagery of a city with walls help you to visualize the importance of self-control? (Proverbs 25:28)

More questions @ www.southfork.church/psalms-proverbs-discussion-guide

How to Pray for The Peace of Jerusalem

Psalm 122 (ESV)

R_____! You Are Invited to Worship God Weekly, Together! [1] I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

We Choose Our Response to Invitations By...

- 1) Ignoring (passive rejection)
- 2) Justifying (rejection that reveals actual priorities)
- 3) Declining (active rejection)
- 4) A_____ (full acceptance)

An Invitation Is... 1) A Relational Privilege & 2) An Opportunity (versus an obligation or requirement)

We Are P_____ & Commanded, Like Jerusalem, to Give Thanks to God (versus a self or worldly focused life)
Psalm 122:4 “to which the tribes go up...to give thanks to the name of the LORD.”

What does it mean to pray for the “peace of Jerusalem”?

Psalm 122:6 “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! ‘May they be secure who love you!’”

Israel & Jerusalem are not about the n_____/place or heritage/ancestry, but about God's born-again children:

- Romans 9:6 “For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel”

The “Peace of Jerusalem” Is Not Ultimately About Finding Earthly Peace

Luke 12:51 “Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.”

The “Peace of Jerusalem” Is About:

1) Peace w___ G_____ the Father by Affirming Jesus Is the Christ & Trusting Him as Lord:

- 98% of Modern Israel (Jews & Muslims) Deny Jesus as the Son of God - they do not have peace with God
- Rom5:1 “we have peace w/God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Romans 10:9–10 “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”
- 1 John 2:22–23 “Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. [23] No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.”

2) Experiencing Eternal Peace/Security through Jesus

- Lk2:14 “on earth peace among those w/whom he is pleased!”
- Psalm 122:6 “May they be secure who love you!”

3) Finding Freedom from F_____ through Jesus

- John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”
- John 16:33 “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

4) The Indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit from Jesus

- Psalm 122:8 “I will say, ‘Peace be within you!’”
- John 20:21–22 “Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. ...when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”
- Galatians 5:22–24 “But the fruit of the Spirit is...peace”

5) M_____ Peace through God’s Biblical, Spiritual Truth

- Romans 8:6 “to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”
- Philippians 4:5–7 “do not be anxious about anything... the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

6) A Gift from God: Not Earned or Deserved:

- Galatians 1:3–5 “Grace to you and peace from God”
- Colossians 1:19–20 “making peace by the blood of his cross”

7) Living Victoriously from Satan’s Rule & Accusations

- Romans 16:20 “The God of peace will soon crush Satan”
- Ephesians 2:13–16 “Christ Jesus...he himself is our peace”

8) Standing Firm & Actively Shining the G_____ Light

- Eph6:14–15 “the readiness given by the gospel of peace.”
- Acts 10:36 “preaching good news of peace”
- Hebrews 12:14 “Strive for peace with everyone”
- Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers”
- Romans 15:33 “May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.”

9) Choosing Obedience to God’s Word - 2 Tim 2:22–26

- Flee Youthful Passions; Pursue Holiness - Righteousness, Faith, Love & Peace; Avoid Foolish Controversies; Be Kind to Everyone; Prepare & Teach; Patiently Endure Evil; Correct Opponents with Gentleness
- Philippians 4:9 “practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you”

10. The Fullness of Peace on the D__ of J_____:

Jesus’ Return Brings Eternal Peace in Jerusalem

- Zechariah 14:2–11 “I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle...the LORD will go out & fight against those nations...On that day...Jerusalem shall dwell in security.”
- Acts 1:11 “This Jesus...will come in the same way”

11. Pray for Godly Governments to Provide Peace

- 1 Timothy 2:1–2 “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, [2] for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”
- 2 Thessalonians 3:16 “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.”

This Next Week’s Psalms & Proverbs Reading Plan:

Week 44: Psalm 123-125 ~ Proverbs 26:1-16

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcd devo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2023-bible-reading-plan

How to Pray for The Peace of Jerusalem

Psalm 122 (ESV)

Rejoice! You Are Invited to Worship God Weekly, Together! [1] I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

We Choose Our Response to Invitations By...

- 1) Ignoring (passive rejection)
- 2) Justifying (rejection that reveals actual priorities)
- 3) Declining (active rejection)
- 4) Attending (full acceptance)

An Invitation Is... 1) A Relational Privilege & 2) An Opportunity (versus an obligation or requirement)

We Are Purposed & Commanded, Like Jerusalem, to Give Thanks to God (versus a self or worldly focused life)
Psalm 122:4 “to which the tribes go up...to give thanks to the name of the LORD.”

What does it mean to pray for the “peace of Jerusalem”?

Psalm 122:6 "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! 'May they be secure who love you!'"

Israel & Jerusalem are not about the nation/place or heritage/ancestry, but about God’s born-again children:

- Romans 9:6 “For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel”

The “Peace of Jerusalem” Is Not Ultimately About Finding Earthly Peace

Luke 12:51 “Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.”

The “Peace of Jerusalem” Is About:

1) Peace with God the Father by Affirming Jesus Is the Christ & Trusting Him as Lord:

- *98% of Modern Israel (Jews & Muslims) Deny Jesus as the Son of God - they do not have peace with God*
- Romans 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Romans 10:9–10 "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes & is justified, and with the mouth one confesses & is saved.”
- 1 John 2:22–23 “Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. [23] No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.”

2) Experiencing Eternal Peace/Security through Jesus

- Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”
- Psalm 122:6 "May they be secure who love you!"

3) Finding Freedom from Fear through Jesus

- John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”
- John 16:33 “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

4) The Indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit from Jesus

- Psalm 122:8 “I will say, ‘Peace be within you!’”
- John 20:21–22 “Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” [22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”
- Galatians 5:22–24 “But the fruit of the Spirit is...peace”

5) Mental Peace through God's Biblical, Spiritual Truth

- Romans 8:6 “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”
- Philippians 4:5–7 “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

6) A Gift from God: Not Earned or Deserved:

- Galatians 1:3–5 “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, [4] who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age”
- Colossians 1:19–20 “making peace by the blood of his cross”

7) Living Victoriously from Satan's Rule & Accusations

- Romans 16:20 “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”
- Ephesians 2:13–16 “Christ Jesus...he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility [15] by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, [16] and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”

8) Standing Firm & Actively Shining the Gospel Light

- Ephesians 6:14–15 “Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, [15] and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.”
- Acts 10:36 “preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all)”
- Hebrews 12:14 “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”
- Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

- Romans 15:33 “May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.”
- Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

9) Choosing Obedience to God's Word - 2 Tim 2:22–26

- Flee Youthful Passions
- Pursue Holiness - Righteousness, Faith, Love & Peace
- Avoid Foolish Controversies
- Be Kind to Everyone
- Prepare & Teach
- Patiently Endure Evil
- Correct Opponents with Gentleness
- Philippians 4:9 “practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you”

10. The Fullness of Peace on the Day of Judgment: Jesus' Return Brings Eternal Peace in Jerusalem

- Zechariah 14:2–5 “For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle...[3] Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. [4] On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives...Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.”
- Zechariah 14:9–11 “On that day...there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.”
- Acts 1:11 “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

11. Pray for Godly Governments to Provide Peace

- 1 Timothy 2:1–2 “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, [2] for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”
- 2 Thessalonians 3:16 “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.”

12. Pray for & Share Spiritual Peace with Others