

Creating Space: God in Our Midst

Week Two: Peace in All Your Pieces

Welcome/Prayer

Reflection Question How many this week took the time to have a family meal together at the family table? What was it like to focus all of your energy on one another? Did you notice the empty place setting at your table? What did your family discuss when it noticed the extra place setting?

Discussion

We begin to see a reality that God has created space for us at His table. This space allows for us to sit and come in contact with His grace, reconciliation, and peace. God presents us to this age as His new creation of reconciliation and peace. As His people we do not carry this just for ourselves but as His desire was to share with us this peace, we must also share this with others. The peace we receive at His table is not just for ourselves but for others to taste and witness, as we are the carriers of the Good News and in-breaking of God's reign.

Scripture: Matthew 5:9; Ephesians 2: 14-18; Romans 12: 14-19

Hebrew Shalom: state of well-being, wholeness and harmony that infuses all of one's relationships

- How do we generally view the phrase “the peace of God”?
 - What does it mean in our own lives?
 - How does the Hebrew concept of peace (*Shalom*) change our view of peace?
- Why is the vision of Shalom (state of well-being, wholeness, and harmony that infuses all of one's relationships) so hard to grasp and maintain?
- How can Christians be people of peace in all parts of their life (family, work, church, social, public/private)?
 - Do we section off parts of our life, where we don't invite this peace to the table? Why?
- If God's peace is to bring reconciliation and harmony to all of creation, might it not include God's forgiveness (and my forgiveness) of those who have wronged me?
 - Why is this so hard?
- How do we as Christians pursue peace in our own lives and our relationships with others?

Take it With You Question

This week as we begin to live a life that reflects this peace (*Shalom*) that overflows from our life. How can we be better peacemakers in all situations? Look for areas and places in your life where you struggle and begin to be the peacemaker. Find someone or some place in your life that you may have withheld this *Shalom*. Work this week to reconcile this place or with this person.

Closing:

Final Prayer