



### Theology Refresher - Shalom (Peace)

Complete or wholeness. To bring about Shalom is to make something complete or whole (i.e.- to reconcile and heal a relationship is to bring about Shalom). Jesus is our Peace, and we are to be a people of peace, creating and restoring peace on this earth as ambassadors of Jesus.

## LOVE

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)**

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How is your walk with the Lord? Did you have any opportunities to share the Lord with anyone?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement? How can we pray, encourage, and show love to them?

## TRUTH

**Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)**

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue Starter]

2. We find ourselves in the book of 2nd Corinthians. Who can recall why Paul wrote this second letter and what is the state of Corinth at this time?

Corinth was a robust port city that was incredibly diverse in thought and belief and acted as a major economic hub in the ancient world. Paul traveled there as a missionary for this very reason and stayed there for 1.5 years (Acts 18). After planting a church there, he departed only to find out later that the people in Corinth were struggling. The currents of the culture were sweeping them away into sexual immorality, false gods, and false beliefs. Paul pens what we call 2nd Corinthians, after his second "painful visit" to them (2 Cor. 2:1), correcting sinful behavior and false beliefs they had absorbed from the "super apostles" (those who claimed to be more spiritually enlightened than Paul).

3. Would you say that we (our culture today) are more similar or dissimilar than the ancient people of Corinth? How so?

[Dialogue Example] - We are certainly more similar than dissimilar. We might not have massive temples and altars erected to false Gods that people flock to, but we are very much steeped in sexual immorality, false beliefs, evil desire, and many other sins that plagued the people of Corinth.

4. This passage repeatedly pairs affliction and comfort. How would you summarize what Paul is communicating here? What were Paul's afflictions and how was he comforted in affliction?

Paul endured sufferings (beatings, imprisonment, etc.) because of his faithfulness to Christ. These afflictions only served to strengthen other believers and fortified their resolve to follow Jesus. Paul was comforted in being able to rest in God's sovereignty and mercy. Shalom (peace) in God was the anthem of Jewish culture and the anthem of Paul's heart.

5. Paul starts this whole passage by saying a standard Jewish praise that sets the tone of things to come. He says, "Blessed be." Does your life and your actions exude Paul's anthems of "Grace" and "Peace (shalom)" and "Blessed be"?

[Dialogue]

6. How does this text affect your daily life? How can you apply this text to your life?

[Dialogue]

7. How might you share this passage/truth with someone else? A child? A family member?

[Dialogue]

## **GREAT COMMISSION**

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)**

- How are we doing as a group with the Great Commission?
  - Is there anyone that you need to invite to church or this group?
  - Is there anyone who needs to hear what we learned today in God's word?
  - Does anyone need a "refresher" on how to share the gospel?

## PRAYER/REPENTANCE

**But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)**

- Without getting too specific, is there anything you want to repent of before the group?  
[apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger]
- Let's confess our shortcomings to the Lord and pray what we have learned in God's word.