

### Group Questions

1. Does the current state of the world give you feelings of restlessness? Do you find yourself craving peace?
  
2. Discuss some ways the word *peace* is used in our world today.
  - a. How does Ray Stedman define peace *with* God?
  
  - b. According to Romans 5:1 and Romans 5:6–8, how can we have peace *with* God?
  
3. The best commentary on the peace *of* God is Philippians 4:6–7. Read those verses aloud and discuss the following questions.
  - a. What was going on in Paul's life when he wrote these words?
  
  - b. Instead of being anxious, what does the apostle Paul tell us to do in verse 6?
  
  - c. What is the promise of verse 7?

d. Take a minute to pray for the worries and anxieties of the people in your group.

4. What are the four main highways upon which the peace of God travels? Discuss each one.
  
5. Read Psalm 61:1–4. How can your group encourage each other in times of hardship to rely on God's peace?

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### DID YOU KNOW?

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The Jewish (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) ideas of peace were different. The Greek idea of peace (*eirene*) refers to the absence of conflict nationally or personally. But the Hebrew idea of peace (*shalom*) was much broader and richer in meaning. The basic meaning of *shalom* was to be whole or safe or prosperous, which would include the absence of hostility or conflict. *Shalom* was the condition of everything being right with the world—again, nationally or individually. Given the choice, more people would prefer *shalom* to the less-nuanced *eirene*. When Isaiah foresaw the coming of the Messiah, he called Him *Sar Shalom*—Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

### Notes

1. Adam Withnall, "Global Peace Index 2016," *Independent*, June 8, 2016, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/global-peace-index-2016-there-are-now-only-10-countries-in-the-world-that-are-not-at-war-a7069816.html>
2. Ray Stedman, "Defense Against Defeat, Part 1," *Authentic Christianity*, accessed May 22, 2017, <https://www.raystedman.org/new-testament/ephesians/defense-against-defeat-part-1>.
3. Ray Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare* (Waco, TX: Word Books, 1985), 77–78.
4. Henri Nouwen, *The Path of Peace* (New York: Crossroad, 1995), 78.