

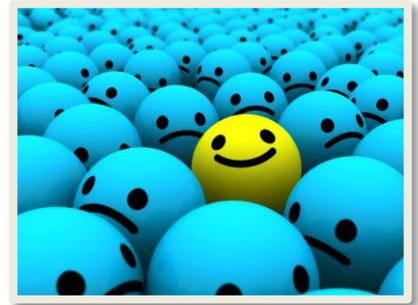
## LIFE GROUP NOTES:

### SERIES: The Pursuit of Happiness

### PART THREE: Peace in our Time

*When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.*

*Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.*



### Romans 5:12-19 (NLT)

## INTRODUCTION

Happy people are at peace with God, themselves, and others. The three are connected . . . and they begin with God. Peace with God paves the way to peace with ourselves (if God can forgive us we can forgive ourselves) and equips us to make peace with others we are motivated to treat others how God has treated us). But how do we find peace with God?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word "sin"? To what extent do you think that word is relevant to your daily life?
2. What are some reasons people assume they can't find peace with God? Why do you think people carry around these false assumptions?
3. Read Romans 5:12–19. Does peace with God through Jesus Christ sound too easy? Why or why not?
4. Read 1 John 4:20. What does this verse say about how God values you and other people? In what ways does it challenge your assumptions about what it means to have a relationship with God?
5. Is it difficult for you to believe that peace with God is possible? Why or why not?
6. What is something that stands in the way of your peace with God? What is one thing you can do this week to begin to surrender that area of your life? What can this group do to support you?

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

We need **PEACE** with God because it paves the way to peace with ourselves and equips us for peace with others. We lack peace because there is a conflict cause by **GENRAL SIN** and **PERSONAL SIN**. We have been born (without choice) sinful by nature. Jesus says we must be 'born again' into his kingdom. Not through better behaviour, but through trusting in what God has done for us in Jesus (Rom 5:1). **PEACE WITH GOD BEGINS WITH FAITH IN CHRIST**. Because God is a loving Father, he is willing to break peace with us by saying 'NO' when it is in our best interests. His love is too strong to go along. **WE MAINTAIN PEACE BY SUBMISSION TO CHRIST**. (1 John 1:6)

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

Peace with God is possible because God has made peace with you. Your heavenly Father is looking for you whether or not you are looking for him. Why refuse God's offer of peace? You can experience that peace when you stop resisting and striving, and begin to surrender. Peace with God begins by faith in Christ. Peace with God is sustained by submission to Christ.

*Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. (Rom 5:1-2 NLT)*