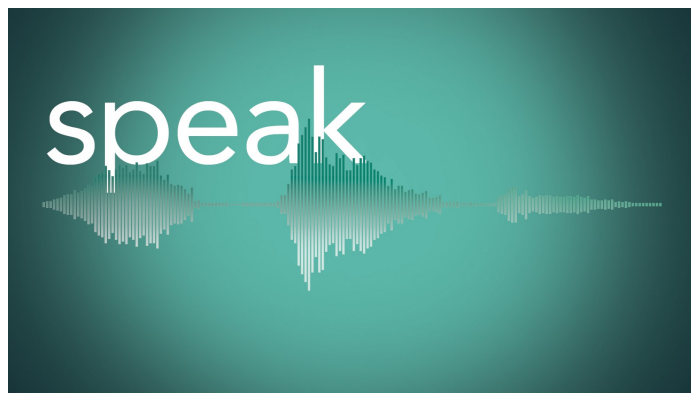


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



PRINCE
OF PEACE
Called to Connect



Speak ... Peace

January 13 & 14, 2024

The prophet Isaiah frequently speaks peace: peace between people and peace throughout all creation. What a vision for all of us to live into: peace will come. Let's usher it in here and now.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ISAIAH 11:6-9

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Isaiah writes words of a peaceful future during a time of great chaos in Israel. The Israelites were under oppression from and at war with the Assyrian nation. Isaiah gives a sense of hope that the Spirit of God will hover over the chaos just like in Genesis 1 when the Spirit of God hovered over the darkness and spoke light into the darkness.

Isaiah prophesied about peace within relationships, between nations, and throughout all creation. In this passage he gives the reader vivid images of peace: the wolf and the lamb, the leopard and the goat, and the little child who will lead them all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ***Speaking peace is not “going along to get along.” That kind of “peacemaking” is really more about avoiding conflict than speaking peace.*** Share about a situation in your life when you “went along to get along” or sought to “avoid conflict” at all costs. Did it work in the short term? Did it work in the long term? How might “speaking peace” have been a better option? What would that have looked like?
- Re-read the Isaiah passage along with Genesis 1. As a group, make a list of all the things that don't seem like they should be able to exist together. Then, share about something in your own life or in the world today that doesn't seem like it can exist together. How do the two scripture readings bring you hope in these current situations?
- ***Peace comes powerfully by listening, hearing and being heard, validating and being validated.*** Share about a time when you were able to bring peace into a relationship by hearing and being heard, validating and being validated. Where does this process need to still happen in a relationship? How can you take the first step towards peace?

CHALLENGE: Isaiah gives us God's vision of peace and we are called to usher it into the world. This week, focus on trying to cultivate a way of listening so you can be inspired to speak peace.