2026 ANNUAL THEME: "HOPE IN MOVEMENT"
January Theme: The Power of Walking in Peace

BIBLE STUDY
January 7, 2026
"Finding Peace: Introduction" (Isaiah 26:3)

Topics
- ➢ Scripture Reference
- ➢ Reflection Questions
- ➢ Important Emphasis
- ➢ Key Terms and Definitions
- ➢ Outline
- ➢ Introduction
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- ➢ Explore The Text
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Scripture Reference:
"The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You" (Isaiah 26:3).

Reflection Questions

A.   How do you define peace?

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B.   Briefly describe a time when you felt peace as you have defined it.

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C.   What do you understand the term "peace through strength" to mean?

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IMPORTANT EMPHASIS

It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it. Eleanor Roosevelt

There are so many people who are living in dire straits, they are despondent, dejected and disturbed. Just maybe, there is someone that is masking this very existence right now. The good news is that the peace of God is awaiting us to turn toward Him for sacred solitude.

What is Peace?

We have heard this word a time or two in our lives. Let's examine some of the origins of peace.

For a people of faith, peace implies a right relationship with God, which entails forgiveness, reconciliation, and union. Jesus calls for conversion of heart and proclaims God's kingdom, which has already begun in his presence and person. (Mk 1:14-15)

The Jewish concept of shalom undergirds the Christian view of peace. For the early Hebrews Yahweh could be designated shalom and the word designates the slate of being.

Peace in the Old Testament reflects the ideal of God's good creation and describes a state of well-being the opposite of warfare, violence, and conflict. A word used for peace is the word shalom in transliteration. This word shalom expresses the idea of peace in the Hebrew Bible. The root word is salamu which comes closes to the core meaning to be whole or complete Proverbs 3:2

Shalom or Salom is the daily greeting in Israel; salom alekem peace upon you (plural) is a common expression we can translate as "good day." But it really is closer to "may you be well. To be well is, of course to be whole, to be complete, "to have physical and spiritual resources sufficient to ones needs. Peace in one form or another the notions of wholeness, health, and completeness.

The word shalom denotes the state of salvation that God has planned for the state of salvation that God has planned for the world… promised to the people in blessing Numbers 6: 26 People wish for and convey shalom.

Who can Give you Peace?

First it is almost always set in an indissoluble relation to God and the human world.

Like the Old Testament Isaiah 9:6, the New Testament can predicate peace Eirene of God, then of Christ. God is the God of peace Roman 15:33 and Christ is our peace Ephesians 2:14. Peace has a fixed place in greetings and blessings.

The word **Eirene** appears in almost every writing in the New Testament. It describes an international calm and a relationship of good will between God and humans. Described a social reality a state of reconciliation and wholeness among a group of people.

Eireneuo (peace) occurs 100 times in the New Testament, in every book except 1 John. Erene draws upon the Old Testament Hebrew Shalom through LXX. Eirene occurs 199 times in the LXX connotes wholeness and well

God finally sealed his will for peace in Jessus of Nazareth, especially peace with his enemies. The disciples of the messiah are lauded as peacemakers.

Toned by its theological use the Eirene greeting evokes gratitude for God's salvation and the faith community.

World view of Peace?

Classical Words

Galena the calm of nature, specially at sea; of mind or spirit and even of the conscience.

Homonoia quality of community life which emerges when people think alike or agree

Plato speaks of profound peace older persons when they no longer need to be concerned about their passions

Isaiah speaks of peace

Isaiah is the first book of the Hebrew latter prophets
There is a extraordinary sub heading in the NASB for Isaiah 26 and that is the Song of Trust in God's Protection.

Here are somethings we should take note of from Isaiah

Establishing of security by God Isaiah 26:1
Entering the open gates by the Righteous Isaiah 26:2
Ever present Faithfulness by God Isaiah 26:2b
Endorsement of Trust by the steadfast Isaiah 26:3

All of these concepts lead to perfect peace!

Key Words and Terms

Anticipate	Peacemakers
Assurance	Perfect
Community	Reconciliation
Christian Eschatology	Restoration
God	Security
Harmony	Serenity
Jesus Christ	Steadfast
Keep	Transformative
Lord	Tranquility
Mind	Trust
Peace	

OUTLINE
I.   Pursue Perfect Peace (Isaiah 26:3)
II.   Trust God Tenaciously (Proverbs 3:5-6)
III.   Anticipate God's Assurance (John 14:27)

INTRODUCTION
The January 2026 Bible Study series is entitled "Finding Peace." The first lesson is **"Introduction to Peace."** This lesson sets the stage for understanding peace as a profound spiritual state rooted in trust and faith. Drawing from **Isaiah 26:3**, we delve into the concept of **perfect peace**, a state of completeness and tranquility that transcends external circumstances. This lesson invites participants to reflect on their personal definitions of peace and consider how trust in God can lead to a steadfast mind and heart. Through scripture, reflection questions, and life applications, we aim to uncover the essence of peace as both a divine gift and a personal journey.

As we progress through this series, we will explore various dimensions of peace, each building upon the foundation laid in this introductory lesson. The subsequent lessons will guide us through the realms of **Inner Peace**, where we focus on personal spiritual harmony; **Communal Peace**, emphasizing relationships and community well-being; and **Kingdom Peace**, envisioning a world aligned with divine justice and love. Together, these lessons will provide a comprehensive understanding of peace, encouraging participants to embody and promote peace in their lives and communities. Join us as we embark on this transformative journey, seeking to live out the call to be peacemakers in a world longing for hope and harmony.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT
The world often defines peace as the absence of conflict or war, focusing on external conditions such as political stability, social harmony, and economic prosperity. It is generally seen as a state where individuals and communities live without fear of violence or unrest, allowing for personal and collective well-being. This worldly perspective emphasizes external factors and conditions that contribute to a peaceful environment.

In the **Old Testament Hebrew**, "peace" is often translated from the word "*shalom*" (שָׁלוֹם). Shalom encompasses a range of meanings including completeness, wholeness, health, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, and the absence of agitation or discord. (Numbers 6:24-26; Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 29:11; Psalm 119:165)

The law of first mention refers to the first time a word or concept appears in the Bible, which often sets the tone for its meaning throughout the scriptures. The term "peace" is first mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 15:15, where God tells Abram (later Abraham) that he will go to his ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. This establishes an early biblical context for **peace as a state of well-being and rest.**

In the **New Testament Greek**, "peace" is translated from the word *"eirene"* (εἰρήνη). Eirene carries meanings similar to shalom, such as peace, tranquility, harmony, and the absence of conflict. It also implies a state of inner peace and spiritual well-being. (Romans 15:33; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23)

The **early Church Fathers** often described peace as a profound spiritual state rooted in the teachings of **Jesus Christ**. They emphasized peace as an inner tranquility and harmony with God, achieved through faith, prayer, and adherence to Christian virtues. For example, Augustine of Hippo spoke of peace as the "tranquility of order," where one's soul is aligned with God's will. Similarly, Clement of Alexandria viewed peace as a divine gift that surpasses human understanding, fostering unity and love among believers. The Fathers also highlighted the importance of peace in community life, encouraging reconciliation and forgiveness as essential practices for maintaining harmony within the Church.

Contemporary theologians and Bible scholars often emphasize peace as a central theme in both religious practice and global ethics. They explore peace not only as the absence of conflict but as a holistic concept involving justice, **reconciliation**, and the well-being of communities. Many scholars highlight the teachings of Jesus, such as the Beatitudes, which call for peacemaking and compassion. Additionally, they often discuss the role of interfaith dialogue and cooperation in promoting peace, recognizing the importance of understanding and respecting diverse religious perspectives. Theological discussions also frequently address the need for social justice as a foundation for lasting peace, advocating for systemic changes to address inequality and oppression.

The phrase **"peace through strength"** suggests that a strong military and defense capability can deter potential aggressors and maintain peace. It implies that by being prepared and demonstrating power, a nation can prevent conflicts and ensure stability.

The Bible emphasizes achieving peace through **love**, **forgiveness**, and **reconciliation**. In Matthew 5:9, Jesus says, "Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God." Additionally, Romans 12:18 advises, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." **These teachings highlight the importance of seeking peace through understanding and harmony rather than through force or power.**

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. How does the lesson "Introduction to Peace" define peace, and what biblical reference is used to explore the concept of perfect peace?

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2. What are the different meanings of the word "shalom" in the Old Testament, and how do they contribute to the understanding of peace?

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3. How do contemporary theologians and Bible scholars view the role of social justice in achieving lasting peace?

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EXPLORE THE TEXT

I.   **Pursue Perfect Peace** (Isaiah 26:3) speaks of a "perfect peace" that comes from trusting in God. This peace is complete and unwavering.

A.   **Trust Triumphs Turmoil:** By placing unwavering trust in God, believers can overcome life's chaos and find serenity.

   Daniel in the Lion's Den: Daniel's unwavering trust in God is a powerful example of overcoming turmoil. Despite being thrown into a den of lions for his faith, Daniel remained steadfast in his trust. God protected him, and he emerged unharmed, demonstrating how trust in God can lead to triumph over chaos.

B.   **Steadfast Serenity Source**
   Consistent faith in God serves as the foundation for enduring peace and stability.

   The Story of Joseph
   Joseph's life, as recounted in the Book of Genesis, is a profound example of trust in God leading to peace amidst turmoil. Despite being sold into slavery by his brothers, falsely accused, and imprisoned, Joseph maintained his faith in God. His unwavering trust eventually led to his rise as a powerful leader in Egypt, where he was able to save his family and many others from famine. Joseph's story illustrates how steadfast faith and trust in God can bring peace and triumph over life's adversities.

II.   **Trust God Tenaciously (Proverbs 3:5-6)** Trusting in God consistently is key to experiencing this peace. It encourages us to trust in the Lord with all our heart.

A. **Wholeheartedly Worship**: Embrace a complete and unwavering trust in God, allowing your heart to fully rely on His guidance.

King David is a biblical example of wholehearted worship. In **2 Samuel 6:14**, David danced before the Lord with all his might, demonstrating his complete devotion and trust in God. His actions showed an unwavering commitment to worshiping God with his whole heart.

B. **Persistently Pursue:** Continuously seek God's wisdom and direction, ensuring that your faith remains steadfast and unyielding.

The story of King Solomon is a biblical example of persistently pursuing God's wisdom. In **1 Kings 3:9**, Solomon asks God for an understanding heart to judge His people and discern between good and evil. God grants his request, making Solomon renowned for his wisdom throughout his reign.

III. **Anticipate God's Assurance** (John 14:27) God's promise of peace is assured for those who keep their minds steadfast on Him. He reminds us of the peace Jesus leaves with us.

A. **Promise of Peace**: God's guarantee of tranquility is given to those who trust in Him.

Hannah is a notable female biblical character who exemplifies the promise of peace. Despite her initial distress over being childless, she prayed earnestly to God and trusted in Him. Her faith was rewarded with the birth of her son, Samuel, bringing her peace and fulfillment.

B. **Calm and Composed**: Maintaining focus on God ensures a calm and composed spirit.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, exemplifies a calm and composed spirit in the New Testament. She demonstrates this through her acceptance and trust in God's plan, particularly during the Annunciation when she responds to the angel Gabriel with faith and serenity.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. What is the significance of "perfect peace" as described in Isaiah 26:3, and how does it relate to trusting in God?

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2. How does King David's example in 2 Samuel 6:14 illustrate the concept of wholehearted worship and trust in God?

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3. What does John 14:27 convey about God's promise of peace, and how is this exemplified by Mary, the mother of Jesus?

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LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Reflect on a situation in your life where trusting in God brought you peace. How can you apply this trust to current challenges you face?

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- Consider the concept of "peace through strength" versus "peace through love and reconciliation." How can you incorporate the latter into your daily interactions and relationships?

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Resources:

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