

**Discussion Questions**  
**Peace (For Walking Into Battle)**  
**Ephesians 6:10-15**

(What is stressing you out most in life now? What do you most desire to have peace about?)

(When in life have you felt most alive? Was there an element of danger involved in that experience?)

In Ephesians 6 Paul talks about having our feet “fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

- How would you define peace?
- When do you feel most at peace?
- Paul speaks of “readiness” that comes from the gospel of peace,” what do you think the *gospel* of peace is and what does it make us *ready* for?

We often think that in our own strength and efforts we can bring about peace in this world, but ultimately it is only God who can bring lasting peace. Life is a rollercoaster of a ride that can be terrifying if we don't realize that we have a loving Heavenly Father who is in charge of it all.

- In what ways do you, in your own strength, try to create peace in the world around you and in your own life?
- In your experience what ultimately brings the most peace? Are your efforts helpful in fostering peace? Explain.
- Why do you think God allows for such a lack of peace in our lives?
- What wild rides has He taken you on or allowed you to go on? What did you learn through those experiences?

In our own efforts, we can't make the whole world peaceful, but we can carry the One who is peace with us; we can have our feet “fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

- What do you think it means to have your feet fitted with the gospel of peace?

In this sermon, Peter told a story about how his children experienced peace when they were little:

When my kids were little, I was always amazed at how good news of Shalom changed the meaning of every experience and filled their time with life. Time, and time again, they'd experience some trauma and come running to me saying, “Kiss it. Kiss it.” I'd smile, kiss the wound and say, “You're OK,” and they'd run away playing... The kiss told them, “I still love you,” and “I'm still in control—everything is OK!” The death and resurrection of Jesus is like the kiss of our Father upon this fallen world, telling us, “I still love you, and I'm still in control. Yes, it hurts. Yes, you're dying. Yes, you're losing all control, but look...I'm still in control and everything is OK. Have courage.”—P.H.

- Can you think of a time when you experienced the loving kiss of your Heavenly Father in the midst of chaos & pain?
- Did the kiss bring you peace and give you courage? If you like, share about that experience.
- What areas do you need God to speak peace and comfort into right now?
- Is there any practice or environment that helps you hear Him speaking the gospel of peace into your heart?

Shalom in your heart here and now changes the meaning of every moment, hear and now, on the ride. It changes the way you travel, and maybe even *if* you travel; for peace is The Way and The Life. But Paul also seems to be saying something amazing: “It's also a weapon.” Do you remember when the Prince of Peace stood before Pilate, representing the power of Rome, and Pilate said, “*Do you not know that I have the authority to release you or crucify you?*” And Jesus, Prince of Peace, having been stripped, beaten and flogged, ready to die, looked Pilate in the face and said, “*You would have absolutely no power over me except that which is granted you from above.*” In other words: “My Father is in absolute control of this ride.” And that peace cut into Pilate's heart like a sword...—P.H.

- Is there anyone or any area in your sphere of influence that God might desire for you to proclaim the gospel of peace to? If so, invite Him to speak peace to you & through you.