



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 4: *Shalom* → *Shema*

**Icebreaker:** Watch [the whole video](#) and/or read [this NYT article](#) about the landfill in Indonesia mentioned at the start of this week's message. *(links embedded in the electronic form of this document)*



1) What emotions and/or reactions does the description of the landfill evoke in you? Have you ever experienced a similar feeling when confronted with suffering or injustice? How do you grapple with questions about God's presence in suffering? How do you make sense of a loving God in a world full of pain?

2) Read and discuss the following:

**Peace** I leave with you; **my peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.  
- John 14:27 (NIV)

### Peace WITH God

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. - Romans 5:1 (ESV)

### Peace OF God

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus - Philippians 4:7 (ESV)

3) How does the concept of “Shalom” resonate with you? How would you define it based on what you have heard in the series so far? How is Shalom different from Self-Care?

4) Think of a real “*God ... I have no idea what You're doing!*” moment of your life and share it with your group. Next, discuss what an application of Colossians 3:12-17 might look like in that same situation as well as its effects.

5) Joshua 21:45 reads, “Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed.” How does this verse relate to the concept of Shalom discussed in the sermon? How can we trust in God's promises in our own lives?

6) Divide & Conquer – look up the following passages focused on the “Shema” (*the central declaration of the OT faith; the foundation for the greatest command of the NT*) and read them aloud: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21; Numbers 15:37-41; Joshua 22:5; Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28. What is the connection between Shalom and Shema? How does this apply to your life today?