

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part I: Jehovah Shalom

**Icebreaker:** Share a brief moment from this week when you experienced a sense of peace or harmony. (Maybe it was a moment of silence, a kind interaction, or time spent in nature.) What is it about this moment that made you feel more at peace and/or harmonious than other moments?

- 1. Define the concept of "shalom" based on what you heard in the sermon. How does shalom go beyond absence of conflict? How does it relate to the idea of harmony, wholeness and relationship with God? Where do you see shalom in Scripture?
- 2. Fill in the following blanks using the given passages and share what encourages you most and why.
- We have with our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Ephesians 2:3-5; Romans 5:1)
  We have peace in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_\_. (Philippians 4:6-7; Isaiah 26:3)
- We have peace in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 5:9; James 3:18; Romans 12:18, 14:19)
- 3. Think about a recent situation in you life where you experienced chaos or unrest. How did you respond to that situation? In what ways could seeking shalom have changed your perspective or actions in that moment?
- 4. Read Psalm 29:11 and Philippians 4:6-7. How do these verses describe the nature of God's peace?
- 5. Reflect on the cycle of Bless  $\rightarrow$  Mess  $\rightarrow$  Repent  $\rightarrow$  Restore found throughout the book of Judges. How does this cycle relate to your own life experiences? Have you ever found yourself in this kind of pattern? How might shalom help break the incessant cycle above?
- 6. Read Psalm 34:14 and James 4:8. How do these verses encourage seeking peace and pursuing God's presence? In your own life, what are some practical steps you can take to actively seek shalom in your relationship with God and others?

