Discussion Questions

Date: November 8, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

The Church as God's Peace-Full, Spirit-led People | 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

- ***Becoming peace-full people (5:12-15)***
- The peace-seeking church honors leaders who are worthy of esteem. (12-13)
- The peace-seeking church nurtures one another as the family of God. (14-15)
- **Question**: In what areas of life (home, church, community, workplace) may God be calling you to be an agent of peace-making?

Becoming Spirit-led people (5:16-22)

- The Spirit-led church operates in abiding communion with God. (16-18)
- The Spirit-led church operates in the power of the Spirit. (19-22)
- **Question**: In what areas of your life (character formation, spiritual direction, participation in the life of the body, etc) do you need to yield more to the work of the Spirit?

<u>Bottom Line: The Church rightly displays Christ to the world in being a Spirit-led people of peace.</u>

Talking Points

- **When you think of peace-full, Spirit-led people who comes to mind? Consider sharing a story of that person with your group.**
- **What type of leaders are worthy of esteem? In what ways are you honoring them?**
- **Who is God calling you to nurture? How are you bringing those people up in the peace of God?**
- **In what different ways is God calling you to bring His peace into the place you live, work, and play? How can you encourage one another in that work?**
- **Share stories of your own abiding communion with God. If you do not experience this, how might God be inviting you into this communion?**
- **How would your lives look different if you walked in the power of God? What area of life is God inviting you to yield to His Spirit?**
- **Pray for your group to embody the message of these verses in your internal lives and in your lives with one another and your community.**

Understanding Scripture

1. **Read the passage aloud.**
   - Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
   - Question: What was God's desire for them?
2. **Reread key verse(s) aloud.**
   - Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
   - Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?
3. **Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.**
   - Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
   - Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
   - If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.
4. **Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")**
   - Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
   - Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests