



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:

I Choose: Week 5 (October 22, 2023)

*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Step 1: **GATHER** with your family or group. Step 2: **REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. Step 3: **PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

How would you define the word, Peace? What kind of things tend to threaten peace in people's lives? Why? How would our, as a community of believers, walking in the Peace of God, demonstrate the Kingdom of God to the world around us?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read John 14:27; Colossians 1:15-17. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture before responding to the following questions. What does Jesus desire to give us according John 14:27? What does Jesus mean when He says, "I do not give to you as the world gives." What does Colossians 1:15-17 tell us? Why is that important for us to remember? Jesus is the creator of all things including ALL the angels. Remember this.

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Isaiah 14:12-17; Luke 10:28. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture. What part did Jesus play in Lucifer (Satan) getting kicked out of Heaven? What got Lucifer kicked out of Heaven? The most incredible part of God's creation is humanity. The part of creation that God loves and cherishes more than anything is humanity. Satan was once the display of God's glorious creations, and he is no longer that. So, what strategy has Satan devised to stop that? He is doing everything he can to separate humanity from God. How has he tried to accomplish this? Start by looking at Adam & Eve. Read **Genesis 3:15**. What did God just tell Satan? How did that change Satan objective, his strategy? Looking at the biblical pattern of Satan trying to destroy the seed of the woman, discuss the many ways throughout history he has attempted to do just that. We have an enemy who hates God more than he hates you and me. He wants to be God but can never be Him. So, his only objective is to get as many of God's creation to reject Him, and not love Him back. How does he do this?

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Colossians 1:19-20; Hebrews 2:14-18; Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:5-6. Using a good Bible Study tool like *Bible Hub* (biblehub.com) or *Blue Letter Bible* (blueletterbible.org), study through this scripture. When we are born, we are born as enemies of God because of our sinful nature. Because of sin we have this ingrained desire to be God, just like Satan had. We have a natural desire to be in control and elevate ourselves. Satan understands the strategy if I can't hurt the Man I hate, then I will hurt the ones He loves. Through sin Satan has captured humanity and has held them for ransom. This is what Satan has done with God's children. Satan has separated God's children from their father through sin. Satan tries his hardest to keep humanity an enemy of God, but what has Jesus come to do? What does the word ransom mean?

DOING THE WORD

Because Jesus conquered sin that separated us from God, we now have the opportunity live in harmony with God, and therefore can live in peace and choose peace daily even though we continue to live in unpeaceful world. Peace is an internal confidence that all things are working for your good and God's glory. What is something that stands in the way of your peace with God? What is one thing you can do this week to begin to surrender that area of your life? How are you going to pursue peace this week? Understanding that there are two possible eternal destinies for people – one of peace and one of torment – who in your sphere of family, friends, classmates, neighbors, or colleagues needs to hear the good news of God's peace this week?