



WEEK THREE

Jehovah Shalom

Judges 6:11-24

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL • SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Discovering God's Peace in Every Storm

DAY 1

The Lord Is With You

READING · JUDGES 6:11–16

Gideon was hiding when God found him. He was not on a mountaintop of victory or in a season of strength. He was underground, afraid, doing the bare minimum just to survive. Yet the angel of the Lord called him a mighty man of valor. That title was not based on Gideon's record. It was based on God's presence. The same is true for you today. Your weakness does not disqualify you from God's calling. His presence with you is what defines your strength. Stop measuring your capacity by your circumstances and start measuring it by who walks with you.

REFLECTION

In what area have you been hiding instead of trusting God's presence to go before you?

TRY THIS WEEK

Write down one situation where you have been retreating in fear. Pray over it today and ask God to remind you that he is already there.

DAY 2

Peace Is Not the Absence of the Storm

READING · MARK 4:35–41

Jesus told his disciples they were going to the other side. That word had already gone forth. Then the storm came. Notice that Jesus did not prevent the storm. He slept through it. His peace was not produced by calm water. It was rooted in confidence in the Father's word. When Jesus spoke peace over the storm, it was the same peace he already carried in the boat. He was not surprised. He was not shaken. Biblical peace is not the removal of difficulty. It is the settled assurance that God's word will not return void, no matter what the weather looks like around you.

REFLECTION

Is your peace dependent on your circumstances being resolved, or on God's word being true?

TRY THIS WEEK

Identify one promise from Scripture that speaks directly to your current struggle. Write it somewhere visible and read it aloud each morning this week.

DAY 3

Trusting the Promise Over the Problem

READING · PROVERBS 18:21; ROMANS 8:28

Gideon rehearsed his problems out loud. He listed his weaknesses, his family's limitations, and his tribe's failures. The words he spoke agreed with his circumstances rather than with God's word. Proverbs reminds us that death and life are in the power of the tongue. We are often our own worst opposition. We speak defeat over ourselves before the enemy even has a chance to open his mouth. God's promise to Gideon was not that the road would be easy. It was that he would not walk it alone. Trusting God's promise means letting his word be louder than your worst fear.

REFLECTION

What negative declarations have you been making over your life, your future, or your family?

TRY THIS WEEK

For the next 24 hours, replace every fearful or defeated thought with a declaration rooted in Scripture. When anxiety rises, speak a promise aloud.

DAY 4

Worship Before the Battle Is Over

READING · JUDGES 6:24; PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7

After Gideon encountered the Lord, he built an altar and called it Jehovah Shalom. The Midianites had not been defeated yet. The enemy was still pressing in. His circumstances had not changed, but his understanding of God had. He worshipped before the victory arrived. This is one of the most challenging and most powerful postures a believer can take. Praise is not a response to resolution. It is a declaration of trust before the resolution comes. Philippians tells us that when we bring our requests to God with thanksgiving, the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds. The altar comes before the answer.

REFLECTION

Are you waiting for God to fix the problem before you praise him, or are you willing to worship in the middle of the waiting?

TRY THIS WEEK

Set aside ten minutes today to worship with no requests attached. Simply acknowledge who God is. Thank him for what he has already done and trust him with what has not yet come.

READING · JOHN 14:27; ROMANS 5:1; EPHESIANS 2:14

Gideon named an altar. Jesus fulfilled what that altar pointed toward. The deepest storm humanity has ever faced was not a military enemy or a financial crisis. It was the separation between sinful people and a holy God. Jesus did not simply offer peace as a gift handed out from a distance. He became our peace. He crossed the gap. He bore the weight of sin, shame, failure, and fear so that reconciliation would be possible. Every name of God we study points us toward the person of Christ. Jehovah Shalom is not merely a title. It is a person who died and rose again so you could be made whole.

REFLECTION

Have you received the peace that Jesus purchased for you, or are you still trying to earn a calm life through your own effort?

TRY THIS WEEK

If you have never surrendered your life to Christ, today is the day. If you have, thank him specifically for the peace his sacrifice made available, and share that peace with someone who is still searching for it.

Jehovah Shalom — The Lord Is Peace

OPENING PRAYER & ICE BREAKER

Opening Activity: Take two or three minutes for each person to write down one word that describes how they feel about the storms or pressures in their life right now. Don't share yet—you'll return to these words at the end of the session.

SERMON OVERVIEW

This week's message explores the name Jehovah Shalom, meaning “The Lord is Peace,” through the story of Gideon in Judges 6. Gideon was hiding from his enemies when the angel of the Lord appeared, called him a mighty man of valor, and commissioned him to lead Israel. Through that encounter, Gideon discovered that peace is not the absence of trouble—it is the presence of God.

KEY SCRIPTURE · JUDGES 6:24

Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Getting Started

- 1 When you hear the word “peace,” what is the first thing that comes to mind? How does that compare to what the message described as biblical peace?
- 2 Many people, when asked what would make their life better, say money. What do you think people are really searching for when they say that?

Going Deeper

- 1 Gideon was hiding in a winepress when the angel called him a mighty man of valor. Why do you think God addressed him by who he could become rather than what he was doing? What does that say about how God sees us?
- 2 Gideon asked, “If the Lord is with us, then why is all of this happening to us?” Have you ever asked God that same question? What was that season like?
- 3 Gideon built an altar and worshiped while the enemy was still present—before the battle was resolved. How hard is it for you to worship and trust God before your circumstances change? What makes it hard?
- 4 The message described two voices we often hear: the word of the Lord and the voice of our circumstances. Which do you find yourself listening to most, and why?
- 5 Jesus slept in the storm because his word had already gone forth that they were going to the other side. How does confidence in what God has already spoken change the way you face difficulty?
- 6 “God's peace does not just calm you. It commissions you.” How have you seen God use a season of peace to prepare or send you somewhere? How might your current need for peace be connected to something God is calling you toward?

The Gospel Connection

- 1 The message connected Jehovah Shalom to Jesus—that our greatest peace comes from reconciliation with God through Christ. How does understanding Jesus as our peace, rather than simply a provider of peace, change the way you approach him?
- 2 Romans 5:1 describes peace with God through faith in Jesus. For those willing to share, what did it mean to you personally when you first understood that peace was available through what Jesus did?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Peace isn't the absence of storms — it's the presence of God in them.
- ✓ Peace isn't about what's around you — it's about who is in you.
- ✓ Recognizing God's presence is the starting point of peace.
- ✓ Trusting God's promise over your circumstances is an active, ongoing choice.
- ✓ God's peace doesn't just calm you — it commissions you for a purpose.

- ✓ **Jesus is our peace** — through the cross, the separation between us and God is reconciled.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

The message closed with three challenges. Choose one or more this week:

Option 1 Trust Before It Changes

Stop asking God to change everything before you trust him. Identify one area where you've been waiting for circumstances to improve, and decide to worship and trust him there before anything changes.

Option 2 Replace "What If" with "What Did God Say?"

Think of a fear that's been occupying your mind. Look up one passage that speaks directly to it. Write it down, memorize it, and return to it every time the fear resurfaces.

Option 3 Practice the Presence of God

When anxiety rises this week, pause and verbally acknowledge God's presence. Try, "Lord, I know you are with me. You are Jehovah Shalom. I choose to trust you in this."

CLOSING REFLECTION

Return to the word each person wrote at the start. As a group, pray specifically over those words and the situations behind them. Ask God to make his presence known in each area. Close by praying that everyone would experience not just the gifts God gives, but God himself as their peace.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next session we continue in the Unknown God series. As you prepare, consider what other names of God you have heard but may not fully understand. Come ready to share one name or characteristic of God that has meant something to you.



Peace is not the absence of the storm. It is the presence of God.

UNKNOWN GOD · WEEK THREE