

MY NAME IS | JEHOVAH SHALOM

MY NAME IS, PART 4: JEHOVAH SHALOM: THE LORD IS MY PEACE

Turmoil. It's a word that accurately describes our present day. Another school shooting, a bombing at a public event, or any number of other tragic occurrences. We can't seem to get through a week without hearing new reports of devastation and carnage somewhere.

Some people don't use the word *turmoil* but *drama*. We live in a world of unending drama. Our lives are full of drama—our own or other people's. We don't desire this drama, but once it's here, we're not quite sure how to get rid of it. Things seem to have gotten so bad for so many people that clinical depression and other emotional disorders are on the rise as people search for escape—some way to numb the pain, remove the anguish, and discover some momentary peace. But God is there, offering to be our Shalom—our peace.

THE BIG IDEA: Disobedience disrupts peace, but obedience brings life and peace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

** Remember the goal is to use the questions to generate discussion, not to complete every one.*

1. What comes to mind when you hear the term peace?
2. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Judges 6:1, 6-10.](#)

¹ The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight. So the Lord handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. ⁶ So Israel was brought very low because of Midian, and the sons of Israel cried to the LORD." ⁷ When they cried out to the Lord because of Midian, ⁸ the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt. ⁹ I rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I told you, 'I am the Lord your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live.' But you have not listened to me."

[Judges 6:1, 6-10 \(NLT\)](#)

3. What does this passage reveal about the way God deals with his people's unfaithfulness?
4. Think about a time in your life when you felt harassed by circumstances. What caused your difficulties and how did you respond to them?
5. Prior to Gideon saving the day, what was the situation in Israel? What did the oppressed and fearful Israelites do? (v. 7) How did God respond? (vv. 7-10) What did the Lord declare to Gideon? How did he respond? What questions did Gideon ask the Lord? What do Gideon's questions reveal about his fears?
6. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Judges 6:12-15.](#)

¹² The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!" ¹³ "Lord," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The Lord brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the Lord has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites." ¹⁴ Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" ¹⁵ "But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

[Judges 6:12-15 \(NLT\)](#)

7. God saw Gideon as a mighty hero. Gideon saw himself as weak and one of the least. **What are some wrong beliefs about yourself that God is helping you to overcome?** What does God say about you in His Word? What would it look like in your behavior if you believed what God says instead of your feelings, weaknesses, or circumstances?
8. What promises did God make to Gideon? (*Read Judges 6:12, 14, 16, 22*) Make a list of all the Lord's declarations and promises to Gideon. Which of these promises apply to us today? How difficult is it for you to simply take God at His Word and trust His promises? Why is God's word sometimes not enough to convince us to trust God?
9. What comes to mind when you hear the term peace?
10. What might be stealing your peace? Do you have habits of worry and anxiety? Have you become too busy to seek the Lord? Have you made compromises that have eroded your faith?
11. What might be stealing your peace? Do you have habits of worry and anxiety? Have you become too busy to seek the Lord? Have you made compromises that have eroded your faith?

THINK ABOUT IT

Shalom is a Hebrew word, so much richer in its range of meanings than the English word "peace," which usually refers to the absence of outward conflict or to a state of inner calm. The concept of shalom includes these ideas but goes beyond them, meaning "wholeness," "completeness," "finished word," "perfection," "safety," or "wellness."

MOVING FORWARD

Shalom comes from living in harmony with God. The fruit of that harmony is harmony with others, prosperity, health, satisfaction, soundness, wholeness, and well-being. When you pray to *Jehovah Shalom*, you are praying to the source of all peace. No wonder his Son is called the *Prince of Peace*.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Jesus said clearly, I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart because I have overcome the world. *John 16:33*