



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 4: Peace I Leave

Suggested Week of Use: March 26, 2023

Core Passage: John 14:16-29

News Story Summary

In some ways, the peace talks related to the war between Russia and Ukraine have very little to do with peace. Instead, discussions about a cease fire can feel more like a tug-of-war between those who are directly involved in the conflict and those who are indirectly involved. While some are acting with proper motives, truly looking for peace, other parties are simply seeking ways to take advantage of the situation. Yet, all of the rhetoric is taking place under the banner of peace. Meanwhile, the war has now entered its second year, leaving some to wonder if it's even possible to reach a lasting peace.

For more about this story, search “Ukraine War fight for peace.”

Focus Attention

To supplement **FOCUS ATTENTION**, encourage the group to discuss what “peace” means. Affirm that there are many definitions of peace, depending on the context. Share that the Oxford Dictionary defines peace as “freedom from disturbance” or “tranquility.” Share the article summary about the peace talks in the war between Russia and Ukraine. Point out that what peace means to one side could be very different from what it means to the other. Ask: *How different is the world’s definition of peace from God’s definition of peace? Explain.* Point out that as we consider “peace” in today’s study, we are going to talk about something very different from anything the world can even begin to understand. Affirm that genuine peace—in the world and in our lives—comes from God alone.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, ask: *What is the connection between trust and peace?* Explain that genuine peace is not possible without trust. Remind adults that one of the big stumbling blocks to peace between Russia and Ukraine is that neither nation really trusts the other. Say: *We can only discover true peace in the One who will never let us down, the only One who is absolutely trustworthy: Jesus.* Close by praying that each adult will discover the peace that only comes from Jesus and will look for opportunities to share that peace with others.