

Suggested Resources

Below is a list of resources that will help you dig deeper into the topic preached about this morning. However, while we recommend them, we do not necessarily agree with or endorse every word on every page. The only perfect book is the Bible so as you read these, practice discernment. In other words, "chew the meat and spit out the bones"!!!

- Paul Martini - *The Power of Peace* (audio)
- Jerry Bridges - *The Fruitful Life*
- Philip Kenneson - *Life on the Vine*
- Jo Robinson - *Unplug the Christmas Machine: A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Joy Back into the Season*

Suggested Bibles

We teach from the Bible on Sundays and encourage you to read the Bible throughout the week. Here are a few recommended versions of it:

Quest Study Bible

"The Question and Answer Bible."

CSB Study Bible

The CSB Study Bible offers the award-winning Holman study system, which includes over 16,000 study notes, tools, word studies, and articles from respected Bible scholars.

Teen Life Application Study Bible

includes sections explaining what the Bible has to say about the questions and issues teens face in the *Choices*, *I Wonder*, *Ultimate Issues*, and *My Story* features.

Kids Quest Study Bible

contains over 500 questions that kids ask, "Quest Challenges" to help you apply what you read and more!

Plus... be sure to stop by the Info Table in our lobby and pick up a FREE copy of our Bible Reading Plan... as well as a FREE Bible!

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It's Black-and-White For a Reason... One of our values is to be inwardly frugal so we can be outwardly generous. That's why this program is black-and-white and printed on plain paper. Printing them this way cuts our costs way down. So this program may not be fancy, but it gets the job done. This is one of the things we do that enables us to give away 23% of our budget to the poor and needy in our community and beyond.

THE **eastsidevineyard**[®] CHURCH



Peace on Earth and Goodwill Toward Men

Week 1 of Advent

December 3, 2017

We want people to encounter God on Sundays and not just "go to church." That is why today's 75-minute service will include an in-depth Bible teaching, communion, worship (feel free to stand or sit as we sing), and an opportunity to receive 1-on-1 prayer.

Peace on Earth and Goodwill Toward Men

(Dan Kopp - lead pastor of The Eastside Vineyard Church)

Notes:

Digging Deeper Questions

In our fast-paced culture, it's easy to be impacted by the sermon you hear at church on Sunday... only to forget about it by Monday. To make this message "stick" we created these Digging Deeper Questions so you can process and apply what you heard at church. Take some time this week to go through these questions by yourself, in your small group, with a friend, your family, or your roommate.

1. Icebreaker:
2. Is there anything you heard in this week's sermon or experienced in this week's service that was an "a ha" moment, something significant for you?
3. Read Galatians 5:22-23a. If you had to rank which aspects of the fruit of the Spirit are the most important for you to "bear" in your life, what are your Top 3? Prior to today's sermon, where would "peace" rank on your list?
4. Read John 14:27 in both the NIV and CJB translations (found at the bottom of the previous page). In Life on the Vine Philip Tenneson writes: "Scripture speaks of peace in more encompassing and far richer ways than our common understanding of peace. We tend to define peace in negative terms: as the cessation or absence of conflict. But the concept of peace that pervades Scripture has more positive resonances . . . The Hebrew concept of peace or shalom, informs both the Old and New Testaments." Shalom is the Hebrew word for "peace" but it is multidimensional in its meaning, encompassing concepts like wholeness, fulfillment, health, blessing, and even salvation. Shalom is what God wants for His entire creation — for you to experience "shalom" with yourself, with every person you encounter, with every environment you find yourself in, and with God. What are your thoughts on this?
5. As we begin this series it's important to figure out where you are at when it comes to experiencing peace (shalom). Think of this as a spiritual version of a "You Are Here" sticker that you'd look for on the directory of a mall. On a scale of 1 to 10, what is your level of peace right now, if:
 - 1 = I am immersed in conflict in every sphere of life: with myself, with others, in the various environments I find myself in, and with God.
 - 10 = I am experiencing shalom (peace) in every sphere of life: with myself, with others, in my various environments, and with God.What's your number in each of the four spheres? What are some reasons you chose the numbers you did?
6. Think back to last Christmas and the weeks leading up to it. How much peace did you (and your household) experience during the month of December? What were some of the "things" — circumstances, events, family traditions, people, etc. — that robbed you of peace?
7. As of December 3rd, there are 21 days until Christmas. Keeping in mind your answers to Question 6, how would you like the upcoming Christmas season to look different? Be very specific. What can you do to turn this dream into reality over the next 21 days?

Key Passage:

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives."

- John 14:27 (NIV - New International Version)

"What I am leaving with you is shalom — I am giving you My shalom. I don't give the way the world gives."

- John 14:27 (CJB - Complete Jewish Bible)