

## Suggested Resources

Below is a list of resources that will help you dig deeper into the topic preached about this morning. However, by recommending them, we are not giving a blanket endorsement to the author or every sentence you'll read. The only perfect person is Jesus and 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"!!!

- Dawna De Silva - *Shifting Atmospheres: Discerning and Displacing the Spiritual Forces Around You*
- Paul Martini - *The Power of Peace* (audio)
- Kara Tippetts - *The Hardest Peace: Expecting Grace in the Midst of Life's Hard*
- Billy Graham - *Peace with God: The Secret of Happiness*
- C. S. Lewis - *The Screwtape Letters*
- Frank Peretti - *This Present Darkness*

## 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!

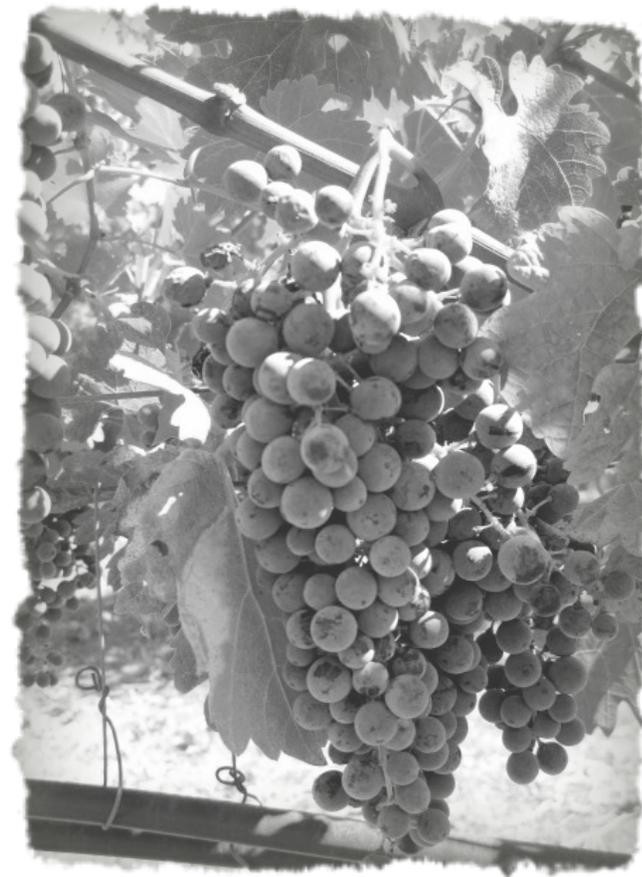
**Plus... be sure to stop by the Info Table in our lobby and pick up a FREE copy of our Bible Reading Plan... as well as a FREE Bible!**

// web: [tevchurch.org](http://tevchurch.org) // phone: 586.770.4712 //

// facebook: search "The Eastside Vineyard Church" //

// e-mail: [info@tevchurch.org](mailto:info@tevchurch.org) // blog: [dankopp.wordpress.com](http://dankopp.wordpress.com) //

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CHURCH



## Peace: An Unlikely Weapon

Week 3 of Advent

December 17, 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: An Unlikely Weapon

(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 - Have you ever seen *Jaws* or one of its sequels? What do you remember feeling as you watched it? Did it change where you'd swim or what you thought about when you went swimming? Have fun with this question!
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. What are some activities you engage in (presently or in your past) or places you go that fill you with peace?
4. Who is one person that you would define as a "person of peace"? In other words, you could be having a horrible day but when you talk to this follower of Jesus on the phone or spend time with him or her, your attitude and emotions shift and you experience the "peace of God"?
5. Read 1 Peter 5:8. Have you ever been having a good day or even a great day, and then in an instant, you became incredibly angry or agitated or filled with another negative emotion along those lines? When something like that happens do you chalk it up to a natural explanation (e.g., low-blood sugar, lack of sleep, another person who just gets under your skin) or do you see it as spiritual warfare?
6. Read Mark 4:35-41 (preferably in the ESV translation). As Christians we like to say that God can give us peace during the "storms" of our lives. And while that is true, Jesus shows us something even better than that, namely, we can tell the "storms" in our lives to go away!
  - What are your thoughts on this perspective?
  - What are some "storms" going on in your life right now — tiny ones or hurricane-sized ones — that you'd love to go away?
  - How does Jesus' example in Mark 4 encourage you to pray differently about those "storms" - where you stop accepting them and begin to pray against them?
7. Read Luke 10:1-9 and John 20:19-22. Imagine if you became a "person of peace" where you did the same thing that Jesus empowered His earliest followers to do: release the "peace of God" over people they encountered and over places they went. How would this next week, the 7 days between now and Christmas, be different if you had this perspective — that God calls you to be a "person of peace"?

**Action Step: Invite your friends and family to join you at the Vineyard on December 24th at 10:30am! Folks who normally don't go to church often will attend on Christmas Eve... if someone asks them! So pray about it, extend an invitation, and see what God does!**

### Key Passage:

***And He awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. - Mark 4:39 (ESV)***