

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

September 13, 2026

SHALOM

John 14:27

Pastor Matt Manning

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NOTES

Pastor Matt reminded us that many of us experience a constant, nagging feeling, something that says, this isn't the way it ought to be; something is missing. The Bible calls this missing thing in our lives ... *shalom*.

MY STORY

What is something that calms you down, that helps you to relax?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO HEAR?

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (John 14:27)

How does Jesus contrast the peace he provides versus the type of peace the world offers?

How can the peace of Christ diminish fear in our hearts?

How can worldly peace, in the end, make us feel more anxious?

What does God want us to hear? Based on the passages above, what are the factual "takeaways" that are meaningful to you?

Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time, stuck with you, challenged or confused you?

What is the one important thing you will take away from this weekend's message or our community group discussion? Is there any challenge, difficulty or praise that you would like to share with the group for prayer?



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WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO?

Pastor Matt said,

*“The peace that the world offers is conditional ...
As long as you live up to your end, we have peace.
As long as you don’t cross the line, we have peace.
As long as you meet my expectations, we have peace.
And if you fail to do that, the relationship changes.”*

When have you faced conditions like this? What made peace so fragile for you in these situations?

The word Jesus used to describe the peace that he offers is *shalom*.

In what ways can *shalom* be described as a “sense of well-being” that remains steady and unwavering, no matter your circumstances or emotional state?

What does God want us to do? Flowing from our reading and interpretation, what action does this passage or the Spirit’s nudging us toward?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

Pastor Matt said, *“When Jesus says, “Peace be with you,” he is not simply talking about civic peace or the absence of conflict. He is reaching back into this deep biblical idea of shalom. All throughout the Old Testament and into the New Testament is this vision of shalom - God restoring the world to the way he intended it to be.”*

Meditate on these gifts from God to believers, and experience the shalom of Jesus this week.

Your life has value.

Your life has purpose.

Your future is secure.

You are not an accident.

You are not alone.

This broken world is not the end of the story.

What does God want ME to do? What is the personal application and action step that the Holy Spirit is calling you toward?