

Online Church 22nd March, 2020

THEME Grace and Peace in anxious times!

BIBLE Philippians 1:1-2 + Matthew 25:34-46

THOUGHTS To get you started

Individually and corporately, we are called to help those in need. We work in order to meet our own needs and the needs of those dependent on us; but we also work in order to have something to give to those who are less fortunate. But needs are not only physical, and in a time, such as this, there is more need than ever for the church, God's people to be generous in the giving of time and care as we show grace and peace to those around us.

For many, the past few weeks have been very stressful! Anxiety levels are high, and the fear of the unknown has driven our society to do things, say things and make decisions that we wouldn't usually make. On top of this, many of our events, holidays, sports and other regular commitments have been cancelled. Whilst some may be rejoicing at the opportunity this brings to slow down, others are lost as to what life looks like during these times.

This morning, in your homes or life groups, take some time to consider the role that we play as God's people in being a non-anxious presence in anxious times, giving grace and peace to those around us.

Reading, discussing and memorizing verses with our children helps them to understand why we should extend grace and peace to others, resting in the comfort that God himself through Jesus and His Spirit gives us grace and peace always.

Today, let's start here...

BIBLE Philippians 1:1-2

This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and deacons. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

FIRST STEPS Watch Mike's video on your own, with your family or your Life Group then...

ACTIVITIES Choose what works for you and or your group

Let's get started...

GET THINKING Around a table with some snacks, a large sheet of paper and markers:

1. Brainstorm a list of ways you can show grace and peace to others. i.e. speaking kindly, caring for the environment, make a visitor feel welcome, making space for someone who feels worried etc.

2. Help your children think of situations they can show grace and peace through being tenderhearted with those who are hurting or worried. Know that God forgives us and helps us show compassion towards others.
3. Brainstorm ways could you offer grace and peace to your friends, neighbours and family members in response to COVID-19?

GET CREATIVE

Philippians 1:1-2

This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and deacons. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

What does this verse mean to you? Create an image using Lego, building blocks, loose parts, or other bits and pieces of choice to unpack what this verse means to you. Take a photo and send it through with a few words about your creation! (Send to Katrina@kingsbaptist.org.au or share on Facebook)

OR

Using some props and dress ups from around your home, create a short story that demonstrates us giving or receiving grace and peace. Film your skit and send it through! (Send to Katrina@kingsbaptist.org.au or share on Facebook)

Read the passage in Matthew 25:34-46, and consider what God is saying through these words. What 5 words or phrases stood out to you and why? What do they mean to you?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

GET TALKING Grace and Peace! Eat and chat - discussion questions

1. Reflect on a moment when someone spoke grace and peace to you. How did they do that and why was it significant?
2. What relationships in your life right now need grace and peace?
3. What's the next opportunity that you will have to speak grace and peace to someone who needs it?

AFFIRMATION CIRCLE going around the circle, take a moment to share a word of encouragement or peace over each person. This could be written on paper or spoken out loud. If you are doing this by yourself, think about who you could phone or write a note to with some words of encouragement.

PRAY Take some time to pray about the things you've shared!