

# Community Group Discussion Questions

“No Shoes no Service”    Ephesians 6:15    Dec 8, 2018

## Getting Started

There is deliberate irony in today’s message as we consider the message of peace in the midst of spiritual warfare, especially during this Christmas season. The gospel of peace enables us to wage war against the forces of evil not just effectively, but confidently.

How would you define ‘peace’?

## Going Deeper

**Parallel of Peace:** “as **shoes** for your feet”...of **peace**”

1. **Provided Stability** -Cushioning
2. **Prevented Slipping** -Cleats
3. **Protected from Sabotage** -Covering

In Ephesians 6:10-17, Paul repeats the word ‘*stand*’ over and over. Every soldier and athlete knows you have to have the right footwear to stand your ground, to dig in and not give an inch. No matter how strong you are in other places, if your feet are vulnerable, your whole life is vulnerable.

**Perspective on Peace:** “**having**” ... “**peace**”

1. **Looking at Peace:** **Greek:** Eirene =Bound together  
**Hebrew:** Shalom = Complete

2. **Lasting Peace:** “*having*” is the idea of possessing, not pursuing.
3. **Lacking Peace:** The enemies effort is to untie the laces of the shoes of peace in an effort to destroy you. #doubleknot

Most of us experience this world as a very busy and stressful place with traffic jams, deadlines, bills, health concerns, relationship struggles, parenting issues, work pressure, and on and on... How does it change your perspective to realize that God wants you to live ‘bound together’, ‘complete’, and knowing that you possess lasting peace?

**Promise of Peace:** “*given by Gospel of peace*” means “Good News or too good to be true”.

1. **Peace with God: Romans 5:1:** *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*
2. **Peace of God: 2 Thess. 3:16:** *Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.*

Peace with God describes the state of our spiritual condition. Our salvation is secure. We are no longer in rebellion against God. We live at peace with God because Jesus Christ has paid the price for our sin, and by putting our faith/trust/belief/hope/confidence in Jesus as our Savior, we are made right with God. **When did you make this decision? Tell us about it.**

Peace of God describes the state of our daily relationship with God. No matter what happens in this world, we know that the God of peace is in control and that all things will work together for good under His guidance and eternal plan. **What do you do to remind yourself of this truth when your world seems full of chaos? How can we help you?**

**Principle of Peace:** *“Readiness (establishment or foundation)...of peace”*

1. **Peace of God Rules** you! **Colossians 3:15:** *let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts*
2. **Peace of God Equips** you! **John 14:27:** *Peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.*
3. **Peace of God Assures** you! **John 16:33:** *In me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world!*
4. **Peace of God Defends** you! **Philippians 4:7** *and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
5. **Peace of God Yields** you! **John 20:21:** *Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, even so I am sending you.*

**Take Away:** You are called to be a person of peace! *“Blessed are the peacemakers”* Matthew 5:9

- **Lace Up: Romans 16:20:** *“God peace of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*
- **Speak Up: Romans 10:15:** *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news”*

These last two verses go along with the philosophy that ‘the best good defense is a good offense.’ If we know the Gospel, that we are saved from our sins by God’s grace, through the sacrificial death of Jesus, and that this Jesus now lives in us, giving us supernatural empowerment to live the Christian life, then there is nothing this world can throw at us that will shake us! We take our faith with us into our daily lives, living with confidence that our God is the winner, and His good news is something everyone needs to hear! Take a moment to look at your feet, and dedicate them to the service of the Lord, that where your feet take you, the Gospel will be coming too!