

**PSALM 25: 4-5 "SHOW ME YOUR WAYS, O LORD" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES –
LEARNER'S PACKET - LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

LESSON #4 – GOD'S WAY OF PEACE

GOD'S WAY - Visitors in church may not be able to explain it or define it, but they know when peace is there. The Lord desired that His people take Him seriously but that they not take themselves too seriously. He wants them to wipe off their grim looks, put smiles on their faces, and let laughter flow from their lips. Should we not see peace seen in our eyes is just as much a mark of faith as are line of care and seriousness? Is it only earnestness that is baptized? Is laughter pagan? A church is in a bad way when it neglects peace in the sanctuary. We begin with prayer.

THE PRAYER – Dear Lord Jesus Christ, when Isaiah prophesied about Your coming, He called You the Prince of Peace. Truly, You have brought peace to countless millions who have been redeemed from sin, death and devil. Nevertheless, the church must confess that we have not always reflected that peace to others. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may witness the peace which passes all understanding. In Your Name. Amen.

THE WORLD'S WAY – The world has an interesting idea of fellowship. Several years ago, in Sebastopol, California, Christopher Chappel was late for his golf date. He rushed to join his foursome on the fourth hole. When he arrived, one of his teed-off golfing buddies blew up and repeatedly clubbed him. The friend began his battery with a five-iron and then he switched to a seven-iron. Christopher was taken to Palm Drive Hospital where he was treated for a broken arm and a bruised kidney. Of course, since the assailant was his best friend, Chappel refused to identify his attacker and did not press charges. When Christians hear of incidents like that, they shake their heads and say, "What a crazy bunch of guys." When the world hears of squabbles between Christians, they snicker and judge the Savior on the basis of His _____.

THOUGHT: Tragically, over the centuries, some of humankind's most inhumane treatment has been visited upon Christians by other Christians. Now, in this lesson we would not have anyone believe that we should compromise any doctrine based upon Scripture. Tolerance applies only to _____, but never to _____. Tolerance applies to the _____; intolerance to the error. Please look at the passages and then write down your answer:

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1 –

PASSAGE	QUESTION	ANSWER
Genesis 25: 28	What was the problem?	_____
Genesis 27: 36	What happened?	_____
Genesis 27: 41	Then what?	_____
	How does that show itself today?	_____
2 Samuel 15: 5	What was happening?	_____
2 Samuel 15: 14	What happened next?	_____
2 Samuel 18: 14	How did it end up?	_____

What does the New Testament say about peace and unity? Look at these passages:

PASSAGE	QUESTION	ANSWER
1 Corinthians 1: 11	What was the problem?	_____
1 Corinthians 1: 12	What were people saying?	_____
1 Corinthians 1: 13	What does Paul ask?	_____
1 Corinthians 3: 5	What does Paul call of these men?	_____
1 Corinthians 3: 6	Who gets the credit?	_____
1 Corinthians 3: 11	What is the foundation of the church?	_____

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FIRST APPLICATION:

Many of the arguments that rend the body of the church are not cut from that bolt of cloth. List some of the things that you have seen which have robbed people of peace within your church:

When the church expends its energy fighting such endless battles, we don't have energy to fight our true enemy: Satan. Let's look at what the Bible tells us about how to avoid conflict and how to attain peace:

2. SCRIPTURE SEARCH - THE WAY OF GOD IS GOOD AND BEST

PASSAGE	QUESTION	ANSWER
Titus 3: 9	What are we to avoid?	_____
2 Timothy 2: 14	What are we to avoid?	_____
Philippians 2: 14	How are we supposed to do everything?	_____
Proverbs 15: 1	How should we act when we are in a discussion?	_____
Deuteronomy 13: 14	What should we do if we have heard a rumor?	_____
James 4: 1	What really causes quarrels and fights among us?	_____
John 17: 21- 22	What did Jesus pray for His followers?	_____
John 17: 21- 22	What will such harmony do?	_____

THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION: - Churches have peace that passes human understanding because Jesus has won it for us. We share peace, because everyone in this world is waiting for some good news of hope. As we wait we need to be _____, _____, _____ for each other. There is no place in this meeting room for vanity and _____. Having, and sharing, the peace of the Savior is what the witness of the church is all about. The alternative is unacceptable.

Even though he was not a Christian, the ancient storyteller Aesop understood the value of peace. He told of how, on a hot summer day, a lion and a boar came to a small pond to drink. They argued which of them should drink first, and were soon engaged in mortal combat. Eventually they stopped fighting to catch their breath. Before they re-engaged, they saw some Vultures waiting to feast on the loser. At once they made peace, saying, "It is better for us to become friends, than to become the food of Crows and Vultures." They understood the way of God's peace.

THE WAY OF PRAYER – Dear Lord Jesus, You lived and died to give us special gifts. Among those gifts is that of peace, personal peace, Spiritual peace, church peace. May we, whenever possible, cultivate that peace so the vulture, Satan, does not feast upon dead souls. In Your Name. Amen.