

INTRO

As you consider last week's message, did you sense a challenge from God about where he wanted you to lean in? Was it taking a step toward engaging with someone or something new? Listening to someone with a different opinion than you? Or asking for forgiveness for treating someone with disdain as opposed to dignity? Share with your group.

IDEA 1

There are two components to true peace - shalom: One is inner peace.....guard me, Lord, from anxiety, fear thought patterns and self-talk. The other is Social Peace - A peace that prevents us from sinning against our neighbor and rather allows for compassion, empathy and love to rise up. It guides and guards us and we engage in the social dialogue and unrest around us, and it doesn't just guard - it also empowers us as we are present in those difficult places and conversations.

What does inner and social peace look like for you? How would you describe it?

How does peace guide and guard us toward grace-filled conversations?

In our political season what is the hardest reason to maintain peace in your closest relationships and community?

IDEA 2

Rob shared three tips throughout the rest of his message as a guide to have grace-filled conversations which were (1) Avoiding shutdown rhetoric (2) Not filling unknown information with negative assumptions. (3) Moving the focus away from their statement to their story.

What type of shutdown rhetoric to see being used in our political dialogue?

What could be the danger of filling unknown information w/ negative assumptions?

Why do you believe starting with story can create better grace-filled conversations?

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Commitment to Resolving Conflict: We commit to having face-to-face conversations when issues are brought to light rather than writing stories in our minds, gossiping, or distancing ourselves. We commit to approach these conversations with a posture of humility, examining our part, our flaws and our conduct. (Matthew 18:15-17, Romans 12:17-21, Matthew 7:1-5).

As you go this week, consider one family member, coworker, neighbor, or friend you need to make amends with. Use Rob's tips on having grace-filled conversations as your guide.

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

As a group, consider praying over the commitments shared in Rob's message and handed out at the end of the service:

Commitment to Allegiance
Commitment to Love Our Enemies
Commitment to Biblical Wisdom
Commitment to seeing the face of God in all
Commitment to Righteousness and Biblical Justice
Commitment to Dignity
Commitment to Resolving Conflict
Commitment to Humble Learning

Let each person pray over one of the commitments as a formational practice for this political season.