

# LEADER GUIDE | WEEK FIVE

## Peace: Calm in the Chaos | **Unity Brings Peace** | week of February 4

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

This week concludes our series on Peace! Throughout the series, we've learned how to take next steps toward peace in our families, with our emotions, and by confessing and receiving forgiveness from sin. This weekend's teaching focuses on the idea that people who have peace share it with others and make unity a priority. As you move through the lesson, be aware of time, leaving extra time for prayer this week.

### ICE BREAKER, CHECK-IN AND THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

The ice breaker and check-in questions give space to talk about peace and celebrate next steps taken with peace. This is the second time the check-in question has been asked in the lessons. This is intentional! Don't be afraid to ask it again!

### SCRIPTURE AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This week's lesson looks at the role prayer plays in encouraging unity and peace for followers of Jesus. Your group will look at four of Paul's prayers for early churches that are written in his letters to the churches. Consider reading through all four of them, and then reading them one at a time as you answer question 2 ("What are some things Paul prays for the early churches?"). Questions 4 and 5 may not have obvious answers for your group members. If they get stuck, the Romans passage most clearly talks about unity, and the 1 Thessalonians passage contains the prayer with the word "peace". Have fun with these questions and see what the Holy Spirit reveals to your group.

### PRAYER

This week, make sure you leave time for prayer. Have your group pray specifically for peace, unity, and love, as well as the needs of your group. You will see the same prayers you read during the scripture and discussion time written out in the prayer section. These have been adapted slightly, changing "you" language to "we" language. Have group members who may not feel comfortable praying out loud (or other volunteers) read these prayers during your prayer time.

### *new leader tip*

*Sometimes it's helpful for group members to see the lessons. Consider having members download the 2|42 App in order to navigate to the lessons or screencast the lesson to your TV.*

### EXTRA INFO TO SHARE WITH YOUR GROUP

**STEP ONE** | Invite those newer to your group or newer to 2|42 to attend the next Step One class at your campus. They can learn more and RSVP at [242community.com/stepone](https://242community.com/stepone)

**NIGHT TO SHINE** | Help make this night special for our guests! Learn more + [sign up](#) to volunteer.

**KIDS + STUDENTS EVENTS** | Check out the [What's Happening Section](#) of the 2|42 App to see what events are coming up soon for the kids + students connected to your group or what your group could do to support those events.

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## ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What activity or situation brings you the most peace?

## CHECK-IN QUESTION

How have you grown in peace throughout this series?

## THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

***Peaceful people work for unity with others.***

What do you remember most from the weekend teaching?

## SCRIPTURE + DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What types of things do you typically pray for other people?

***In Paul's letters to the early churches, some of his prayers for them are recorded. Read 4 of these prayers in Romans 15|5-6, Ephesians 3|14-19, Colossians 1|9-14, and 1 Thessalonians 5|23-24***

2. What are some things Paul prays for the early churches in these passages?
3. Which is most meaningful to you? Why?
4. How would these answered prayers lead to unity in the early Church?
5. Though the word "peace" is not in all of these prayers, how do you see peace in them?

## PRAYER

Pray as a group for the following:

- God's peace throughout the week
- Unity among believers
- Growth in love for one another
- Needs in your group

Have group members read Paul's prayers:

Romans 15|5-6 "May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help us live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. Then all of us can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (adapted from NLT)

Ephesians 3|17-19 "I pray that we, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that we may be filled to to the measure of all the fullness of God." (adapted from NIV)

Colossians 1|9-12 "I pray that God will fill us with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that we may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that we may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light." (adapted from NIV)

1 Thessalonians 5:23 "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify us through and through. May our whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (adapted from NIV)