

Lutheran Women in Mission

Fruit of the Spirit-Peace by Gretchen Gebhardt

Opening

Sing together, "All Glory Be to God on High" (LW 215, TLH 237, LBW 166) or "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" from *The Other Song Book*.

Introduction

Which of the following would bring you the most peace?

- a) A good book and a comfortable chair.
- b) A long soak in a hot tub.
- c) A cup of coffee at sunrise.
- d) A quiet talk with someone you love.



Is this the same kind of peace Jesus gives us? Or is there something more?

Pursuing Peace

Peace of any kind is hard to find in our sinful and chaotic world. Worries, guilt, fear, misplaced priorities, rivalries, disagreements and dissatisfaction with self are just a few of the things that can keep us from finding even a temporary peace. What do the following verses suggest we must have before we can find true peace?

- **Colossians 1:19-22**
- **Romans 5:1**
- **Romans 8:6**

Peace Amidst Troubles

Christ has washed our sins away and we can be certain we are forgiven and will rejoice in heaven someday. But we still live in a sinful world where troubles surround us. As you read the following passages, note how each person was troubled and the solution God gave to them.

- **John 16:32-33**
- **John 20:26-29**
- **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**
- **Hebrews 12:9-11**

Pat's husband was unhurt when his car hit the side of a bridge and he was hurled into the water. "Now I'm certain there is a God," Pat said. "My husband's safety is proof enough for me."

Ruth's car was hit by a truck. Despite prayers for her recovery, she died from her injuries. Is this proof that there is no God? What could you say to Ruth's family to help them find peace? Include promises from the following verses in your response.

- **Psalm 23:4**
- **John 14:1-3, 27**
- **Romans 15:13**

Making Peace a Priority

There is no true peace apart from Christ. When we are secure in His grip we can weather the storms that come our way. Read the following verses to discover how your life can illustrate this truth.

- **Romans 12:16-18**
- **Ephesians 4:1-3**
- **Colossians 3:15-17**

What needs to happen before your life can be an illustration of peace? Pray that God will work these changes in you!

Closing

Silently reflect on the following blessing and underline the words that speak to you. Then pray it aloud together.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen (Hebrews 13:20-21).

Sing together: "Savior, Again to Your Dear Name" (LW 221, TLH 47, LBW 262) or "Go, My children, With My Blessing" (All God's People Sing 102),

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