



# CIBC Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

*This guide is designed to help guide life group discussions of this week's sermon at Cayman Islands Baptist Church. For more information on life groups and other discipleship opportunities at CIBC, please visit [www.cibaptist.ky](http://www.cibaptist.ky).*



## Get the Picture

**-Title:** "Peace"

**-Series/Text:** Advent in Isaiah (Isaiah 26:1-4)

**-Date:** Dec 13, 2020

**-Speaker:** Pastor Randy Von Kanel

**-Main Idea:** A Prophecy of Peace: A Present Peace and a Coming Peace



## Group Discussion

### a) Connect

- 1) **Commit:** Before you begin, agree as a group that you will commit to having an honest discussion about this text without casting any judgment or sharing any unsolicited advice.
- 2) **Read:** Read **Psalm 139:23-24** out loud before you pray to begin the discussion.
- 3) **Pray:** Pray over the group and ask the Lord to "Search your heart" and reveal idols that are keeping you from receiving truth.

### b) Engage

- 1) **Read:** Read Isaiah 26:1-4 and look for repeating words and major themes that stand out. How do these observations help you understand the section as a whole?
- 2) **Discuss:** In that day (Christmas Coming, a Coming Advent): The context from Isaiah points to the day of the Messiah's ultimate triumph, the day when the Messiah reigns over Israel, and over all the world. In that day, there will be a lot of joyful singing, such as this song that will be sung in the land of Judah. Can you imagine what that will be like? How do you envision that time of perfect peace and joy?
- 3) **Discuss:** The city of God, from beginning to end, is all about salvation. Even the walls and the bulwarks of the city are saved! The city of God, with all its strength and salvation, is only for the righteous, and those who keep the truth. In the same principle, the New Jerusalem is a city filled with glory, which excludes the unrighteous. Our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers who are unrighteous will not be in the City of God. What level of priority are you placing on those persons becoming Christians so they can be included in this new city? Are you doing all that you can do for them to make the decision for their souls to be saved?

- 4) **Discuss:** What a promise! Perfect peace! God promises that we can have perfect peace, and even be kept in a place of perfect peace. Some can have this perfect peace, but it is fleeting, and they are never kept there. Others can be kept in peace, but it is not a perfect peace, it is the peace of the wicked, the peace of spiritual sleep and ultimate destruction. But there is a perfect peace that the LORD will keep is in. To be kept in this perfect peace, it is a matter of our mind. This isn't so much a matter of our spirit or of our soul or of our heart. It is a matter of our mind. We are to love the LORD our God with all of our mind (Matthew 22:37). We are transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2). We can have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16, Philippians 2:5). We are not to set our mind on earthly things (Philippians 3:19), but to set our mind on things above (Colossians 3:2). The Christian life is not an unthinking life of just doing, or experiencing, but it is also about thinking, and where we set our mind is essential in our walk before the LORD. How hard is it for you currently to keep your mind on the things of Christ? What are some ways that you get distracted by earthly things? What can you not be as distracted or put another way remain more focused?
- 5) **Discuss:** Because of the promise of Isaiah 26:3, we are exhorted to trust in the LORD forever – and therefore to receive the blessing of the promise, perfect peace! For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength: If the LORD calls us to rely on Him completely with our mind, He appeals to our mind with a rational reason why we should trust the LORD – because He is everlasting strength. It isn't that the LORD has everlasting strength, He is everlasting strength. How do you draw upon the strength of the Lord? Do you find yourself relying on your own strength more than His?

### c) Apply

- 1) **Consider:** Do you realize how much power and strength you have to call upon to go about your earthly life as a child of the King?
- 2) **Respond:** This Christmas week and on Christmas Day (Christmas Present), make sure to include in your busy routine either a bible reading, a time of devotion or reflection on the Peace that we should have as we reflect on Christmas Past while we look forward to Christmas Coming.

### d) Pray

- 1) **Silent Prayer:** Enter into a time of silence to allow God to speak to you in response to everything you discussed today. Listen for areas where He may be telling you He wants you to step out in obedience.
- 2) **Group Prayer:** After a time of silence, close out the study with a group prayer for God's grace to suffer well for Christ.



## Going Deeper

- 1) **Reflect each day of this week on the word Peace:**
- The Hebrew word for “peace” is shalom. (completeness, wholeness, safety, soundness, tranquility, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord.)
  - This “perfect peace” is made possible because one's mind is stayed on [the Lord]. The word “stayed” means settled upon, established upon.
  - Our minds must not be stayed upon worldly things; this only leads to a lack of peace.
  - Peace is ours also when we trust in the Lord. Trusting in the Lord brings hope.