**The Gospel of Peace: Living at Peace**

**“In 1 Peter 3:8-17,** **disciples facing persecution are called to imitate Jesus in thought, word and deed. In responding to evil with love, the hope is that our “good behavior in Christ” may bring conviction on those who persecute us, causing them to repent. By loving our enemies, in other words, we are serving them and possibly setting them free.” Greg Boyd**

**Defining Non-Violence**

*“Violence is causing destruction or harm to a victim, whether physical, verbal or psychological, by means that overpower the victim’s consent.”*

Romans 12:9-21

**We are called to peace in our Actions**

1 Peter 2:21-24, 3:8-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:15

**We are called to peace in our Words**

1 Peter 2:21-24, 3:8-12, James 3:9-12, Ephesians 4:25-32

**The War is Spiritual**

Ephesians 6:10-17, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

**Take Aways:**

1. **Peace is a Verb. – “Make every effort…”**

Romans 14:19, 12:18, James 3:17-18, Hebrews 12:14

1. **Expanding our understanding of peace.**

**Got Questions? Text 519–893-2951 or email shayne@pathwaycc.ca**

1. Take a few minutes to share around the group about your week. Keep this a bit brief by sharing just 1 or 2 highlights/lowlights.
2. Share about a time where you responded to some kind of “evil” (action or words), in a peaceful way? How did this play out?
3. Take time to review Sunday’s teaching. What was something that stood out to you? Something that was new to you?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:8-18 together a couple of times. Look at the passage in a few different translations.
5. What differences did you see in the translations? Do you have any interesting study notes in your bible?
6. What part of this passage stood out to you? Why?
7. What parts did you have a hard time with and why?
8. What similarities to you see here to Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 5? (see Matthew 5:1-12, 21-26, 38-48)
9. So much of Peter’s teaching centres around identifying with Jesus’ suffering. Why do you think this is so important?
10. In Vs. 13-15 Peter says that living peacefully and doing good will not necessarily prevent us from persecution, and in fact calls us to be joyful as do many of the New Testament authors. How do you think it is possible to be joyful in the face of trials?
11. How can you apply what we have been talking about to your life this week?
12. Spend some time praying for one another as we follow Jesus this week.