**Life Group Lesson -- Week of September 30-Oct. 6**

**The Fruit of the Spirit is…Peace**

**Text: Galatians 5:22-25; Romans 5:1-2; Philippians 4:6-9; Isa. 26:3**

**Open It:** Tell about the worst storm you have ever experienced in your life? (That could be an actual, physical storm or that could be a deeply difficult season of your life. You pick!)

**Explore It:**

1. Read Romans 5:1-2 and discuss why it is important to establish Peace WITH God?
2. What do each of these statements from the sermon tell you about your relationship with God and how does knowing them help you experience the Peace OF God?

In justification, the sinner stands before God guilty or condemned, but is declared righteous.

 (Rom. 8:33)

In redemption, the sinner stands before God as a slave, but is granted his freedom.

 (Rom. 6:18-22)

In forgiveness, the sinner stands before God as a debtor, but the debt is paid and forgotten.

 (Eph. 1:7)

In adoption, the sinner stands before God as a stranger, but is made a child.

 (Eph. 1:5)

In reconciliation, the sinner stands before God as an enemy, but becomes His friend.

 (Col. 1:19-23)

1. Read Philippians 4:6-9 and discuss how it relates to having the Peace OF God?
2. How does Paul say that prayer plays a role in experiencing the Peace OF God?
3. How does giving thanks help us experience the Peace OF God? What do you need to be thankful for today that reminds you of God’s goodness?
4. How does focusing our minds on the right things help us experience the Peace OF God? How easy is it for you to allow your mind to go negative? What can help you trigger keeping you focus on Christ?
5. How does obedience help us experience the Peace OF God? When we fail and we are losing peace with God, what can we do with that failure? (I John 1:9)

**Apply It:**

Have you firmly established that you have Peace WITH God? Before you can have the Peace OF God you must have Peace WITH God. Do you need to speak to someone about establishing that relationship?

In what ways do you need to nurture prayer, thanksgiving, focus and obedience in your life to experience the Fruit of Peace in your life? When have you genuinely experienced God’s peace?

Meditate on Isaiah 26:3