

# *Becoming*

## *Becoming at Peace (March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020)*

### PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Opening Prayer:** (1-5 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Thank Jesus for coming to this world and showing us the ways in which we were called to live a life of peace! Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal to us the harvest of panicked people in this world. As we go out into this world of fear and disease, pray that Jesus would remain close to us so that we would experience his peace and be reminded our home in His heavenly kingdom! Finally, pray that the kingdom of Jesus would transform this world plagued by the coronavirus and would renew our hearts with God's love for the lost!

#### **Discussion:** (30 minutes)

#### What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the fifth week of our series titled *Becoming*. During the online sermon, Pastor Danny encouraged us to become more like Jesus by taking heart and growing in our sense of peace. We were specifically directed to Jesus' words in John 16:33 to be comforted as Jesus recognizes our pain and suffering in this world. However, Jesus calls us to take heart by leaning into him, his victory over death, his ability to guide us in tough situations, and his promise of eternal life especially in times of crisis!

**“Heedless of the danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbors and cheerfully accepting their pains.”– Dionysus**

## Suggested Questions

**Check-In:** *Hebrews 4:14-16* – Last week, our talk revolved around the idea of compassion. Our conversations centered on Jesus’ life and teachings on compassion, his ability to sympathize with our pain, and how God can use our deep hurt to empathize with others facing our situations. What were some of your observations as you leaned into becoming more *compassionate* this week?

**Study Tip:** Many of you might be wondering, “How do we live like Jesus during this coronavirus pandemic?” Our key text this week comes from the Upper Room Discourse (John 13 – 17) where Jesus is preparing his disciples for his own betrayal, crucifixion, and departure from this world. This is the tragedy for which Jesus is preparing his disciples to *take heart*. However, these are not just empty words! Right before, Jesus himself went straight into tragedy motivated by love, compassion, and God’s peace. When Jesus finds out that his friend Lazarus has died, he is faced with a crucial decision (Jn. 11:1-4). He could either leave Lazarus behind and avoid the Pharisees looking to kill him or he could go to Lazarus. Jesus makes the conscious decision to return to Judea for the love of his friend, even though this move would eventually cost him his own life (Jn. 11:5-16). As you read this study guide, remember that walking with Jesus means heading into these tough situations so that others might experience life!

- **Objective #1: Explore and share your troubles in this season of Coronavirus.**

*Primary Texts:* *John 16:33 a; Revelation 21:1-8* – As we navigate our current worldly situations where “everything has ceased but there is no peace”, Pastor Danny reminds us of our future residency in the fully-realized kingdom of heaven with Jesus on the throne and evil eternally destroyed. What are some of the troubles and pressures that you are facing in this season? How does shifting your mind to the eternal heavenly kingdom challenge your perspective on your troubles?

*Supporting Texts:* (Kingdom) 2 Sam. 7:1-16; Matt. 3:1-3, 4:17; Mk. 1:15; Phil. 3:12-21; Heb. 11:13-16, 13:14; 1 Jn. 5:1-5, 19

- **Objective #2: Uncover hope! Meditate on the fact that Jesus knows and calls us to take heart.**

*Primary Texts:* *John 16:33 b; Matthew 9:1-8, 18-26, 14:22-33*; – Next, Pastor Danny comforts the church by pointing out that Jesus sovereignly knows our world’s trials and intimately cares for our personal situations. In His infinite wisdom, Jesus calls us to “take heart” in our times of trouble considering who Jesus is, what he has done for us on the cross, and what he is about to do in our time. What are the promises of Jesus that you are holding onto this season? What are you hoping to see come to fruition in your life as God continues to exercise His power and execute His plan?

*Supporting Texts:* (God Knows) Ps. 147:1-6; Is. 40:28; 46:9-10, 55:8-9; Job 28; Rom. 11:33-36 (God Cares) 2 Cor. 1:3-4

- **Objective #3: Pray to lean into Jesus for renewed peace and for a kingdom purpose.**

*Primary Texts:* *John 15:1-17; Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 5:16-26; Matthew 9:35-38*– Finally, Pastor Danny reflects on the history of the church’s response to similar outbreaks in order to encourage us to lean into Jesus so that we may find a supernatural peace and purpose. What aspect of your life do you wish to surrender to Jesus during this pandemic in order to find God’s peace? As you begin to *take heart* what opportunities could you step into in order to begin engaging with the lost?

## **Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)**

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank Jesus for being the way, the truth, and the life in our world today! Ask that the Holy Spirit would reveal to us the depth of what it means to live peacefully in His presence! Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to transform our minds so that we would continue to recognize our own faulty beliefs and worldviews that drive our progress toward becoming more like Jesus!

## **THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**-Stay up to date with our Coronavirus webpage:** Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus)

**-Follow Along with our Pray Podcast:** For the next 30 days, our challenge for you is to step into the prayer movement around 3Crosses by listening to our [Pray Podcast](#).

**-Further Reading and Exploration!** *Read Psalm 78:* One great way to explore God's compassion is to take a bird's eye view of Israel's history and see the pattern of situations that caused them to doubt God's covenant promises with them. Psalm 78 delivers a heartfelt recounting of Israel's history and reminds the reader of all the times Israel has been forgiven. As you read this selection, remember that God has compassion for you and others around you as you experience all kinds of suffering that seem outside of God's control.

**- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week!** Pray that the members of your group would be compassionate as they share the message of God's kingdom to those who are hurting!

**- Join us for our Community Group Meet-Up on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020!** If you have any questions about Community Groups, feel free to email AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)