

week 13

A Greater Peace

Hebrews 7:1-3, Matthew 26:35-46

Total Time: 60 minutes (flexible)

opening prayer

Leader Frame (Optional): This week we step into the garden before the cross. This is not a rushed moment—it's a moment of surrender. Before Jesus secured peace, He chose obedience. Tonight is about slowing down and seeing what He did for us.

Prayer: "Jesus, help us slow down and see You clearly. Let us feel the weight of what You carried and the peace You secured. Teach us to trust the Father because of what You've already done. Amen."

highlights & connection

Purpose: Connect restlessness → desire for peace → deeper need

opening reflection

- Where do you instinctively go when life feels overwhelming or unsettled?
- What do you tend to look to for peace (control, solutions, distraction, success)?

Bridge Statement: We often think peace comes from fixing what's around us. Scripture shows us peace comes from something deeper being made right.

Key Reminder: Peace is not something you create—it's something that must be secured.

scripture focus

Hebrews 7:1-3 (Melchizedek)

Matthew 26:36-39 (Gethsemane)

Context (Leader Summary)

In Israel:

- Priests stood in the gap
- Sacrifices were offered for sin
- But it was temporary

Melchizedek reveals:

- King of Righteousness
- King of Peace
- Righteousness comes first—peace flows from it

Jesus fulfills this:

- Not a temporary priest
- Not repeated sacrifice
- A forever priest who secures peace

main discussion focus

Key Truth # 1 - Peace Requires Righteousness

Not circumstantial, not emotional, not self-produced

Discuss

- Why do we default to trying to "fix" our lives instead of trusting God to make things right?

Key Insight: You don't need help managing life—you need someone to make you right with God

Jesus EVERYTHING

*For us
everything*

Key Truth # 2 - Jesus Is the Greater Priest

- Stands in the gap
- Deals with what we cannot
- Secures what we could never achieve

Discuss

- What does it mean that Jesus doesn't just calm your situation—but actually makes peace possible?

Key Insight: You don't need help managing life—you need someone to make you right with God.

Key Truth # 3 - The Garden Is Where It Turns

- Before the cross—there is surrender
- “Not my will... but Yours be done”
- The cup is accepted

Discuss

- Why is it significant that Jesus' surrender happens before the cross?

Key Insight: Before peace is secured, obedience is chosen.

Key Truth # 4 - Jesus Took the Cup—We Receive Peace

- The cup = judgment, wrath, separation
- Jesus takes it
- We receive peace with God

Discuss

- How does it change your view of God knowing you do not face what Jesus faced?

Key Insight: We don't stand in Gethsemane—we stand on the other side of it.

renewal - the garden and you

Part A- Where Do You Resist Surrender?

We all have “garden moments”:

- Pressure
- Fear

Discuss:

- Where are you asking God to change the situation instead of trusting His will?
- What feels hardest to surrender right now?

Part B - Living from Peace, Not for It

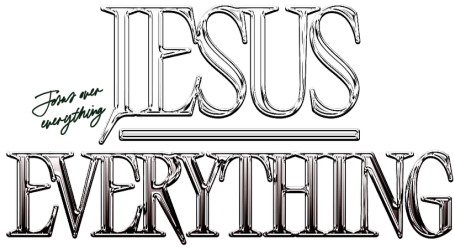
Because of Jesus:

- Peace is already secured
- You don't earn it
- You live from it

Discuss:

- Where are you striving for peace instead of receiving it?
- What would it look like to trust the Father in that area this week?

Key Line: You don't follow Jesus into the cup—you trust Him because He already took it.



missional living - extend peace

Each person answers:

- Who in my life is searching for peace right now?
- How can I move toward them this week with presence, care, and truth?

Next Week Follow-Up:

- Where did you choose trust over control?
- What shifted in your thinking or response?

prayer: surrender and trust

Break into small groups or pairs:

1. **Surrender:** "Father, here's where I'm struggling to trust You..."
2. **Trust:** "Because of Jesus, I choose Your will over my own..."
3. **Gratitude:** "Thank You for the peace You have already secured..."

final takeaways

- Peace is not created—it is secured
- Righteousness comes first—peace flows from it
- Jesus is the forever priest
- The garden is where surrender begins
- The cross is where peace is secured
- You don't earn peace—you receive it

memory verse

"He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace."

Hebrews 7:2 (ESV)

discipleship journey connection

This week is about: Surrender Formation

Encourage:

- Trusting the Father's will
- Releasing control
- Living from peace, not striving for it
- Returning to the finished work of Jesus

final note

Keep this group:

- Slower
- Reflective
- Honest

Let people sit in the tension.

Don't rush to resolve what Scripture lets us feel.