

# The Fruit of the Spirit – Peace

## An Introduction

Peace has many different uses today. Peace can mean absence of war or an inner state of mind. It has been used as a greeting or a description of a quiet place. In the Old Testament, peace (shalom) meant completeness. It was an all-encompassing word that covered mental, physical, and emotional well-being as well as harmony between people and a blessing for the good of others.

**Read John 14:26-27, Colossians 3:15, and Matthew 10:12-14**

## Exploring the Passage

- 1) Peace is used in some unfamiliar ways in these passages. How can you leave peace (John 14)? How can peace rest on homes or return to people (Matt. 10)?  
**NOTE:** The Matthew passage can be very confusing. Try looking at different translations to get a full sense of “peace”.
- 2) How can peace rule? What do you think it means to “let peace rule in your heart”?
- 3) Reread the John passage. Why do you think those verses were put together? What does it tell you about peace?
- 4) Why do you think peace is considered a special gift of the Holy Spirit? Do you think shalom is available to those without the Spirit?

## Charting the Course

- 1) Do you let peace rule in your heart? What would that look like in your life?
- 2) When you greet people, do you offer peace to those you meet?

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.