

MARINERS CHURCH



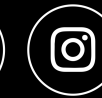
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God's Promise of Peace

10.3.2021

Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm.

The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves obey him!" Matthew 8:23-27 (NLT)

God is in their boat! The Lord is Near.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is near; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:4-9 (ESV)

Other take-a-ways from these passages about how to not worry.

- If worry is wrong thinking, then we see we should replace our thoughts with right thinking.
- Instead of being anxious, we should pray
- We should learn to be more thankful instead of focusing on the what-ifs and poor-me's
- We should "practice" these things – meaning it's not a normal behavior and we need to train ourselves to do life differently.

Talk it Over! For my thoughts and LifeGroup*

Read Philippians 4:4-9 together in various versions. "The Lord is near" (also translated, The Lord is coming, or the Lord is at hand) sometimes finishes the sentence before and sometime starts the sentence after. Discuss why that 'pivot' is so powerful to help in really drawing out meaning.

Share a time when 'the presence of God' in your life changed your outlook in a situation, a crisis, a struggle.

If the awareness of the nearness, the presence, the Immanuel of God is so key to providing peace and freedom from worry, talk about ways to grow in a more consistent lifestyle of living in the 'presence' of God.

"Think on these things..." "Practice these things" What does that look like and what result are we promised?

Pray for each other!

*A LifeGroup is a group of people who are committed to loving each other and growing through times like these. For more information, connect with Pastor Len at len@marinerscc.org