



The Week of January 16, 2022
Graciousness Under Fire
Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **Peace:** (Philippians 4:4-7) I enjoy peace with God as I become more confident in God's grace and experience His presence in my life. I enjoy peace with others as engage in biblically healthy relationships with them. I seek to deal rightly with those who have wronged or offended me as I pursue peace with them.
- **I am Confident:** (1 Peter 1:3-5) Because my hope for the future is placed on the steadfastness of God and the trustworthiness of his promises, I live with confidence.

Intro Questions

- How have you seen God lessen your worry and anxiety this week as you seek Him?
- How would you define gracious? Name someone that you consider gracious.
- How does anxiety affect our relationships with others? Have you seen anxiety (either yours or the other person's) have a negative impact on a relationship?

Graciousness Under Fire

Philippians 4:4-8 (emphasis added)

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything**, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things.

- What are some practical ways to “let your graciousness be known to everyone?”
- How are graciousness and worry connected?

John 16:31-33

Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

- Look up this passage in your Bibles. What is the context of this passage? What happened right before it? Where were they? What happened after it?
- How does the context affect what Jesus says here?
- What does Jesus promise us in this verse? Will life be all sunshine and roses?
 - What is our attitude to be during these trials?
- Where should we seek our comfort?

Galatians 5:22-26

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

- Which fruit apply most directly to being gracious?
- How can we show the fruit of the Spirit when we are under stress and anxiety?
- What does it mean to live by the Spirit (see Romans 8 for guidance)?
- What is the result of not living by the Spirit? How does it affect our relationships?

Next Steps

- Read Psalm 37 this week. Can you replace the “evildoers” with the things you are worried and anxious about?
- Look for someone that you can build a relationship with to encourage each other to live by the Spirit.
- Have you been ungracious to someone? Reach out to them and work on rebuilding that relationship this week. (If this makes you anxious, pray about it!!!)