

## Snoopy: Be Content

Next Steps Lesson

December 15, 2024

Psalm 5:11-12

### OPENING PRAYER:

In the coming of your Son, O God, we have received the spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and power, of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. Use all that we say and do, and use this time to fill our hearts to do and live your will. Amen.

### BREAKING THE ICE:

- Who gave you the most comfort growing up?
- What helps you to find peace and comfort now?

### WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:<sup>1</sup>

As we get ready for the birth of the Prince of Peace, this week we look at how to find true peace and contentment. Read Psalm 5.

- What jumps out at you in this scripture?
- What would lead us to study this scripture in the season leading up to Christmas?
- How does this Psalm speak to the theme of contentment?
- Tradition contends that David wrote this after sleepless nights (v. 1-3).
  - Have you spent time waiting on God for an answer?
  - How did you receive your answer?
  - What helped you sit and wait with God?
- V. 8, is used in reference to John the Baptist. How does Jesus make your path straight?
- What situation are you facing, where could you use help from God? The group?
- Other scriptures on Contentment – Isaiah 26:1-19; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Matthew 6:25-34; Matthew 5:3-12

### FOR FURTHER STUDY:

***Peace has come to mean the time when there aren't any wars or even when there aren't any major wars. Beggars can't be choosers; we'd most of us settle for that. But in Hebrew peace, shalom, means fullness, means having everything you need to be wholly and happily yourself. One of the titles by which Jesus is known is Prince of Peace, and he used the word himself in what seem at first glance to be two radically contradictory utterances. On one occasion he said to the disciples, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Matthew 10:34). And later on, the last time they ate together, he said to them, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14:27). The contradiction is resolved when you realize that for Jesus peace seems to have meant not the absence of struggle, but the presence of love.*** (Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*)

- What do you hear in this writing?
- What are your thoughts on the contradiction of the world's definition of peace and the Hebrew word Shalom?
- What pulls you away from peace in this season? What steps could you take to stay focused on God and true contentment?

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord, teach me to be generous.  
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,

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<sup>1</sup> *The Serendipity Bible*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labor and not to ask for reward,  
save that of knowing that I do your will.  
---St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)