

PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to
be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life*

Live in Harmony With Each Other

Shalom = **PEACE**

- Shalom is the **PRESENCE** of God among His **PEOPLE**

- Shalom was lost as a result of **SIN**

he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace (shalom) was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. - Isaiah 53:5

we have peace (shalom) with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, - Romans 5:1b.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ - Ephesians 2:13

- The **BLOOD** of Jesus restored Shalom

- At Grace we experience shalom in our **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

[see: 1 Peter 3:8-9]

Apostolic blessing from Romans 15:5-7, 13

Next week: Pastor Jeff

Community Group Homework

For the week of April 26, 2009

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back over your sermon notes, was there any particular point or passage of Scripture that most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Which of these things causes you to “blow a gasket?”

- Getting lost when you already late
- Christmas Shopping in late December
- Bad traffic for no apparent reason
- Children bickering while you’re on the phone
- Being in the slowest checkout line when you’re in a hurry
- Getting a repair bill when things are already tight
- Filling out back-to-school paperwork
- A coworker who’s incompetent
- Burning the dinner you went out of your way to make
- Losing our keys when you should have left 5 minutes ago
- A lot of noise when you’re trying to concentrate or relax
- When someone always has to have the last word
- _____

2. When you hear the word “peace,” what do you think of?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Shalom is goodness, delight, joy, peace, harmony, all rolled up in one. Shalom is the way life it is supposed to be, when we live life together, in the presence of God.

- Look up God’s shalom promises, then write down your

thoughts about how His promises relate to you.

(“Shalom” is translated as “peace” in English)

• Isaiah 9:6

• Isaiah 32:15-18

• Isaiah 57:18-19

• Micah 5:4,5

2. Living in harmony with each other is part of God's design.

- Look up God’s instructions for harmony.

• 1 Thessalonians 5:13

• Romans 12:16

• Romans 14:17-19

• Colossians 3:15

• 1 Peter 3:8-9

- What attitude needs to change in your life, so harmony will flow in your home? Work? Friends?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Is the fellowship at Grace “in harmony” or “out of tune?” Why? What can you do to strengthen the harmony?

2. How does the Grace community exemplify the qualities of 1 Peter 3:8?

3. Choose one difficult relationship in which you are currently involved. How can you “bless” (1 Peter 3:9) that person this week?
- What do you plan on doing?