

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

Jesus Shows Compassion for People
Mark 6:30-52

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the "Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study". That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Remind the readers from last week's worship session to be prepared to read the old hymn "Peace! Be Still!" at the beginning of the Gathering Time.

Bible Study Leader:

This week you will need a white board or newsprint and appropriate markers for writing.

Worship Time Leader:

1. Ask an adult to help the younger children prepare to say the following scripture together at the beginning of the Worship Time:

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Jesus Shows Compassion for People – 02-05-06-en

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“Jesus said, Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” (Mark 6:50b)

2. Ask a youth or adult (maybe an older adult) to lead the Ministry Moment. Give them the part ahead of time, though it is only a brief reading part.

Music Sources:

“Just When I Need Him Most”. ***Baptist Hymnal***, 1991, p. 65.

“All the Way My Saviour Leads Me”. ***Baptist Hymnal***, 1991, p. 62.

“Saviour Like a Shepherd Lead Us”. ***Baptist Hymnal***, 1991, p. 61.

“In His Time”. ***Maranatha Music***, 1978.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***Jesus Shows Compassion for People*****Focal Text**

Mark 6:30-52

Background Text

Mark 6:1-52

Main Idea

Jesus shows compassion for people who are experiencing all sorts of troubles.

Question to Explore

How shall we treat people in need?

Teaching Aim

To help the church compare the way they treat people in need to the way Jesus did.

Gathering together:

Ask the three readers who closed last week's service with the reading of "Peace! Be Still!" to open this week's Gathering Time with a repeat of the reading.

1. Master, the tempest is raging! The billows are tossing high!
The sky is o'shadowed with blackness, No shelter or help is nigh:
"Carest Thou not that we perish?" "How canst Thou lie asleep,
When each moment so madly is threatening
A grave in the angry deep.

Refrain:

***"The winds and the waves shall obey My will, Peace, be still!"
Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea, Or demons, or men, or whatever it be,
No water can swallow the ship where lies
The Master of ocean and earth and skies;
They all shall sweetly obey My will;
Peace, be still! Peace, be still!
They all shall sweetly obey My will;
Peace, peace, be still.***

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Jesus Shows Compassion for People – 02-05-06-en

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2. Master, with anguish of spirit I bow in my grief today;
The depths of my sad heart are troubled; O waken and save, I pray!
Torrents of sin and of anguish Sweep o'er my sinking soul!
And I perish! I perish, dear Master: O hasten and take control!

Refrain: (Repeat the refrain)

3. Master, the terror is over, The elements sweetly rest;
Earth's sun in the calm lake is mirrored, And heaven's within my breast.
Linger, O blessed Redeemer, Leave me alone no more;
And with joy I shall make the blest harbour, And rest on the blissful shore.

Refrain: (Repeat the refrain)

Words by Mary A. Baker, 1874.

First thoughts:

A business recently had a sale on automobile fuel. They sold gasoline for half-price. There was a limit on the amount any one customer could buy. People came from everywhere to get in on the bargain. Some felt they were not treated right because they had to wait in line for almost an hour. Several fistfights broke out between customers. Each customer realized very little profit for the time and trouble it took to purchase the small amount of fuel offered. Never-the-less, this business was very popular for a while. Toy and clothing sales, political rallies, music and movie superstars, spectacular events like volcano eruptions, and many other things can bring together crowds of people to see and hear.

Jesus is the Lord of all. He has the power to heal. He alone can turn death into life. He can feed the masses. There is no one like the Lord Jesus Christ. So many come to Jesus for social reasons. He is very popular for a while. Remember that Jesus did not heal everyone who came to him. He did not raise everyone from the dead. Many people did not get fed. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of all who will believe. He died for each and everyone. Most importantly, we should come to him as our Lord and Saviour. We should seek him for the right reason. Our lesson today reminds us of a huge crowd that followed Jesus for the wrong reasons.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

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Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

Jesus Shows Compassion for People

Focal Text

Mark 6:30-52

Background Text

Mark 6:1-52

Main Idea

Jesus shows compassion for people who are experiencing all sorts of troubles.

Question to Explore

How shall we treat people in need?

Teaching Aim

To help the church compare the way they treat people in need to the way Jesus did.

Introduction to your personal study:

- A beggar standing at a street corner holding a sign asking for food.
- A drunk asleep in a vestibule of a store.
- An unemployed neighbour.
- A couple across the street having marital difficulties.

We can ask ourselves, “How would Jesus demonstrate care and compassion for these individuals today.” Today’s Scripture can help us understand how Jesus reacted in several situations to demonstrate his concern for people.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you as well.

Jesus’ Power of Teaching Attracts People (Mark 6:30-32)

In the first part of chapter six, Jesus had instructed his disciples and sent them out on their first mission. While they were at this task, John the Baptist is beheaded by Herod.

Mark 6:30 The mission is completed. The disciples have returned. They report to Jesus what they had done and what they taught. There is no indication of what happened on this endeavour.

Mark 6:31 As the disciples recount their experiences, people come to hear Jesus teach. Very little time is given for the disciples to rest and recoup strength from their task. Jesus seeks to provide them a quiet place where they could rest. He told them to refresh themselves, to rest up.

Mark 6:32 In an effort to give them solitude Jesus and the disciples traveled to a desert place by boat. Jesus was not inviting them to an exotic resort but to a desert place where they could have rest.

Focusing on the Meaning:

Jesus Demonstrates His Compassion for People by Teaching (Mark 6:33-34)

Mark 6:33 The distance they traveled by boat was not long. Some of the people who had come to hear Jesus recognized those on the boat. The crowd traveled by foot and got there before Jesus and the disciples reached the shore. No meeting had been scheduled, no publicity put out, yet people left the various towns to come to hear the teaching of Christ, so eager that they ran to the place. What a zeal to hear the word of God in a desert place that Jesus turned into a paradise.

Mark 6:34 Jesus was seeking solitude. There were many people there needing his ministry, probably more for his teaching than healing. Since many of the crowd ran to the place, not many ill people could have made it. He began teaching them. Jesus had compassion on the people. Having compassion meant that a person was moved in one’s inward being, from the seat of one’s emotions. It was not an ordinary pity. It was a feeling that motivated a person to the very depths of his being. Jesus chose caring for them rather than resting because he considered their need rather than his own needs. Instead of being disturbed because they intruded on his privacy, he was moved to care for them as a shepherd. A shepherd had the task of seeing the sheep had food, water and rest. Jesus gave the people what they came for and what they needed. It was the teaching of God.

Jesus Shows His Compassion for People’s Physical Needs (Mark 6:35-44)

Mark 6:35 Jesus continues teaching until it was late in the day. The disciples, concerned for the crowd and perhaps beginning to feel the pangs of hunger themselves, reminded Jesus that they were out in the desert and that the day was pretty well over.

Mark 6:36 The disciples suggested that the solution to solving the hunger of the people was to send them to where food could be obtained. Here the people could purchase food.

Mark 6:37 Even though the people decided to go out in the wilderness where there was no food, Jesus acting as a host told the disciples to feed them. The people had come seeking spiritual food and Jesus gives them both spiritual and physical food. The disciples, being practical, replied to his command by telling him how much it would cost. They explained how much it would cost to feed the group. They were trying to comply with the commands of God without depending on the resources of God. Can't you imagine the disciples going to the nearest fast food drive through and ordering "500 chickens, 450 litres of beans, and 833 apple pies. And oh yes, we also need enough for the women and children."

Mark 6:38 The answer to Jesus' question about the food available was that there was very little for so many. They had five loaves (buns or patties) of bread and two fish for five thousand men plus the women and children. This would have been very little for Jesus and his disciples alone, much less for the crowd.

Mark 6:39 Jesus had the disciples seat the people in groups. Mark describes these in terms of blocks like garden beds—some in groups of one hundred, some in groups of fifty. Mark also mentions the grass being green (Mark 6:40). The large group was organized in smaller groups. God is not the author of confusion but order. The people were not served as a mob but in small groups. This provided that each individual had food served to him and that no one was neglected. This organization reminds us of how Moses organized the Children of Israel into groups of a thousand, hundreds, fifties and ten as recorded in Exodus 18:24-25.

Mark 6:41 Jesus took the loaves and fish and gave thanks to God. Jesus, the Son of God called upon the Father in thanksgiving. Because of this prayer the food was multiplied to feed the people. Jesus began breaking the bread into pieces and kept on doing it until the disciples had served all the people. Then they distributed the fish in the same way.

Mark 6:42 The people ate and satisfied their hunger. It was not a banquet but it did meet their need for nourishment. God met their need for food. He did not take orders and provide the kinds of food the people might have wanted. God provides what we need, not necessarily what we want. But the people were full. They were satisfied.

Mark 6:43 Then they took up the leftovers. The results of God's blessings on the food were not wasted. Think of the disciple's thoughts as they retrieved the leftovers,

enough to fill twelve basketfuls. The people were fed and satisfied. And twelve basketfuls of leftovers remained. Through this miracle, God produced food in abundance; yet there was nothing wasted.

Mark 6:44 The number fed was five thousand men. In addition to this were the women and children. It was important enough to Mark to mention that five thousand men were fed. It was not sufficient to say a large group of men ate. Numbers, representing people, are important to God.

Jesus Demonstrates His Concern for His Disciples Safety and Emotional Needs (Mark 6:45-52)

Mark 6:45 Jesus sent his disciples in the boat to Bethsaida which was on the west side of the Sea of Galilee. He “sent” the disciples away. This has the meaning of constraint, of command. Jesus stayed personally to send the people away. Some scholars say that after this miracle that the people wanted to make Jesus King. He knew that the disciples would be sympathetic to this so he sent them away. Then in his own way he dismisses the crowd without their seeking to make him king.

Mark 6:46 After dismissing the people, Jesus went up in the mountains to pray. He set aside the temptation to become an earthly king and sought the solace of the father. This action of Jesus in prayer is a model for us. Outward pressures, temptations, etc. should be confronted in prayer.

Mark 6:47 It was evening. The disciples in the boat were in the middle of the lake. Jesus was alone there on the land. He came down the mountain where he had prayed.

Mark 6:48 We don’t know the distance but Jesus could see the disciples struggling as they rowed the boat. It is not clear if Jesus physically saw the disciples from the great distance or if he saw them with more than physical eyes. They were making little progress as a strong wind blew against them. They should have been across the lake by this time but because of the wind they had not completed the voyage. The “fourth watch” would indicate that it was between three and six a.m. The disciples were in the boat. Jesus’ one way of joining them was to walk on water. It offered another manifestation of his power. He did not want to leave them in this difficult situation. Jesus, walking on water, almost passed by them as they laboured against the wind and waves. He was going to pass them, then approach the boat from the front. In that way they could recognize him as he approached. A test and lesson in faith could be given the disciples.

Mark 6:49 The disciples in the boat, seeing Jesus walking on the water, thought he was a ghost. There was no recognition of their master. There was no understanding that their leader had come to them. They had only terror. They failed the test. They did not understand the lesson.

Mark 6:50 The disciples didn't recognize Jesus and were frightened. Imagine seeing a person walking on the water in the dark night and not being scared. Jesus identified himself because they all saw him and were terrified. Jesus sought to calm them. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." The disciples in this one verse go from extreme fright to being encouraged by the Saviour.

Mark 6:51 Amazement increased. The disciples had seen Jesus perform a miracle by multiplying the loaves and fish and feeding the multitude. Now Jesus' power over nature is demonstrated by his walking on water. Then the wind calms. These miracles of Jesus caused great astonishment and perplexity to these who were his followers.

Mark 6:52 The disciples didn't understand the miracle of the loaves and fish. They did not know the significance of the miracle. They could not comprehend his walking on the sea. "Their hearts were hardened" indicates that they had dulled spiritual perception. It is possible today to not understand or deny the reality of the miracle.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

Jesus ministered to people in all circumstances. He dealt with them when he was tired. He cared for them when he was busy. He ministered to them when he was interrupted. He anticipated their needs without being prompted. He changed his agenda when people's hurts were surfaced. He assisted people in all sorts of needs; spiritual questioning, hunger, physical danger, and emotional hurts. Jesus performed all sorts of ministry acts to satisfy the real situations of people. His example can serve as a good pattern for today's disciples. We encounter people regularly that have some care than we can assist them with. We cannot do it perfectly as Jesus did, but we can demonstrate the compassion that Jesus had.

For Personal Reflection:

1. **What have I learned from this study?**

2. **What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

3. **What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Jesus Shows Compassion for People

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc. Children who stay with their parents in the Youth/Adult study should have the material on worship as suggested in **The Children's Corner** at the beginning of this **Unit** of studies. (Ask your leader who downloads the studies for those suggestions).

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

Mark 6:30-52

Background Text

Mark 6:1-52

Main Idea

Jesus shows compassion for people who are experiencing all sorts of troubles.

Question to Explore

How shall we treat people in need?

Teaching Aim

To help the church compare the way they treat people in need to the way Jesus did.

Connect with Life:

Ask: Have you ever been totally involved in an important task and then suddenly been interrupted? Sometime the telephone rings, someone knocks at the door, a child cries, a mate needs help with another project. How do you respond to such an interruption?

Get responses from the group. Please don't evaluate answers as they are given. You may want to give an illustration of how you reacted poorly to an interruption during this

past week. By doing this you are letting the class know that you, too, are imperfect and are seeking to develop in being more like Jesus.

Ask: What would be the best response?

Say: Today we look at Jesus and how he dealt in such a circumstance.

Guide the Study:

Explain: The disciples of Jesus had come back from their mission where they had been sent two by two. They were reporting on what they had done and taught. Even as they were reporting, people were coming in such numbers that the disciples did not have a chance to eat. Jesus led them away to a quiet place, yet the people ran ahead of them. Jesus and the disciples were met by a large crowd.

Say: Jesus ministered to various needs of people. Look in Mark 6:32-34 to find the need with which Jesus dealt.

Have someone read Mark 6:32-34.

Question the group, What was the need that Jesus satisfied here? (It was teaching to satisfy the people's spiritual hunger.)

Ask: What was the situation that Jesus was in when this need arose? Affirm responses but also give the following answer if no one responds correctly. (Jesus and his disciples were seeking quiet and rest after being busy ministering.)

Inquire, Why did Jesus interrupt this quest for solitude?

Help students discover answers in Mark 6:34.

State: Jesus met another need in Mark 6:35-44. Let's read it and see what need he fulfilled. Share the reading of the scripture among the group. Explain that Jesus met the physical need of the people by providing food for them.

Say: Tell us about a time in your life that you were hungry. Let pupils briefly tell about an event in which they were hungry and how they felt when that hunger was satisfied.

Ask: What were some of the obstacles that the disciples saw in trying to feed the people? Let pupils respond with this answer: "It will cost a great deal" or something similar. Explain the procedure Jesus followed to provide the food.

Ask: Why did Jesus feed the people? Get answers.

Say: Jesus met other's needs as recorded in Mark 6:45-52.

Have the group read the passage silently. Remind them that reading the Bible to oneself and think about the basic content in a particular passage is an encouragement to develop their personal devotional time.

Ask: What problems did Jesus deal with in this passage? Help attendees to discover these: disciples struggling against the wind and their fright at seeing Jesus walking on the water—and their thinking that he was a ghost.

Question the group, What did Jesus do to minister to the disciples? (He spoke to them and told them to take courage. He identified himself. He got in the boat with them.)

Explain from the **Teacher Preparation** the meaning of “hardened.”

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Ask the group to think about this question: What are some needs family members, neighbours, co-workers and others have that you could meet as a Christian? Pause long enough for members to process this question. If you have access to a white board or a piece of newsprint you may want to list these responses using a broad point marker. Write big enough so everyone can read from where they are seated.

Question the group: When will these needs arise? Will they come when we are rested and prepared to fill those needs? (They most likely come when we are already busy about good things.)

Lead in prayer asking God to work in our hearts this week so we will meet these needs patiently when they come at inopportune moments.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

Jesus Shows Compassion for People ***Mark 6:30-52***

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Review the collage of needs that you made at last week's study.

Each of you write down one need which you are aware of in the life of a fellow student or a friend.

Pray quietly for that person and the need which he or she has.

Now, rip your paper into shreds while saying to yourself, "I give it all to you, Jesus".

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Jesus Shows Compassion for People***
Mark 6:30-52**Beginning the Service:**

Ask the children to stand together and repeat the memory verse: ***“Jesus said, Take Courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”*** (from Mark 6:50b)

Offering:

Remind the congregation that, however small their tithes may be, everyone, including our children, need to learn that our gifts to God show our love for God. In giving, we give God the opportunity to show what He can do in the world through our church.

Either have a child receive the offering, or remind the participants where the offering basket is located.

Praying for the World:

Have a person other than yourself lead the Ministry Moment, today.

From dictionaries, or the information below, have a youth or adult (senior?) read the definition of the word **“compassion”**. For instance, the American Heritage Dictionary offers the following information (our summary):

Say, “This is the definition of the word, compassion: The deep feeling of sharing the suffering of another, together with the inclination to give aid or support or to show mercy.”

“The word comes from the Latin “com” which means “together with” and “pati” which means to suffer. So, it means to suffer along with someone else.

It also relates to the similar word “compass”. From this idea it adds the emphasis to give direction to the feeling of suffering with someone. In other words, **with Jesus as your example, go do something about your feeling of compassion.**”

Close the Ministry Moment by leading in prayer for God to show your church how to do something about the compassion you feel for others in need.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Jesus can open hardened hearts!

Text: Mark 6:50b "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Introduction:

A coconut offers a great tasting snack. The outside is a very hard shell but the inside contains milk and meat that tastes so sweet. MMUUMM! Good! The only problem is getting through the shell. It offers great protection to the sweet delight inside. What strategy would you use? A hammer? An ax? A karate expert? The best approach is to ask a mother to open it. She would have no problem with it.

The disciples were in a boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee. The fierce wind had them stuck. They were tired after hours of fruitless rowing. Jesus walked on the water to reveal himself as the Messiah. He had to open their hardened hearts. What did he do? He tied the feeding of the five thousand and his walking on the water together by saying, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid. (Mark 6:50b)." How could that open their hearts?

1. Jesus opened their hearts by choosing prayer over popularity.

We do not know what the thousands that had been fed had in mind for Jesus. He would make a very popular king. Jesus sensed the boiling crisis. He immediately compelled the disciples to cross the Sea of Galilee. He found a secluded place to pray. Jesus knew that crowd excitement is not always right. Mobs can do awful things that seem so right at the time.

While Jesus prayed, the disciples rowed. The winds were contrary and they were in trouble. Do you think Jesus might have been praying for their lack of understanding? Prayer is a way to open hard hearts.

2. Jesus also opened their hard hearts by choosing the impossible over the explainable.

They had no funds or food. Yet Jesus told them to feed the thousands. The problem was magnified by the high price for the amount of food they needed. To make things worse, they were in a deserted place. Their only response was, "How?" Moses complained to God because he had no way to feed the hundreds of thousands following him through the wilderness. He wanted to know, "How?" ***"The LORD answered Moses, 'Is the LORD'S arm too short? You will now see whether or not what I say will come true for you. (Numbers 11:23)'"***

There is no possible way to explain what God did. It was impossible. There is no way to explain how Jesus fed the crowd. It also was impossible. Who can explain how Jesus walked on the water? It also was a miracle. Only God could do those things. These miracles should melt the disciples' hearts.

3. Jesus also opened their hard hearts by choosing revelation over limitation.

Our Lord multiplied the bread and calmed the billows. Jesus came walking on the troubled waters to the disciples shortly before daylight. He intended to pass by them. This miracle was to reveal he was the Messiah. They thought he was a ghost! Their faith was weak indeed! In Exodus 33:19, God passed by Moses to identify who he was. In I Kings 19:11-12, God tells Elijah to stand on the mountain, "For the LORD is about to pass by." Jesus wanted the disciples to notice that God was about to pass by them.

Then he said, "It is I" which clearly calls to mind the "I am who I am" that revealed himself to Moses (Exodus 3:14)." To recognize Jesus as God would cause anyone to have courage and stop being afraid. It would melt their hearts.

Call to Commitment:

It is easy to have a hard heart today. We do not see God at work unless we really focus on Him, continually. We are often as blind as the disciples were. Prayer can open our spiritual eyes so we can see Jesus Christ our Lord revealed in the work of God.

Concluding the Service:

Ask the congregation to bow their heads.

Pray that God will help each one of you to focus on Him all week so that you can see God working through each of your lives and in everything that takes place throughout the week.

Close by reading the following verse as a benediction:

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.” (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

Say: “Amen and Amen. Go in God’s peace.”