

THE EXPECTATION GAP

PART 4: FINDING HOME

WIN

To explore what living at home with God, at peace with ourselves, and in healthy relationships with others could look like in real life.

CONNECT

When you picture a really good “exhale” moment at home, where you can finally relax and be yourself? What does it usually include (a favorite chair, a particular meal, certain people, a pet, a noise-free house, etc.)?

LEARN

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father,

*Help us to see where we're restless, and show us what your peace could look like in our lives.
Amen.*

After praying, watch the video for Part 4.

APPLY

Discuss the following questions as a group:

1. At the beginning of the video when you were asked to think about the word “home,” what came to mind for you? What feels like “home” to you?
2. Read **Numbers 6:24–26** aloud.
*“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”*
 - What word or phrase stands out to you most as something you long for? Why is that?

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3. Steve described shalom as being at home with God, at peace with yourself, and gracious toward others. If you divided your life into those three areas—God, yourself, and others—where do you feel the most “at home” right now? Where do you feel the most restless or unsettled?

4. Read **John 14:27** aloud.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

- What differences do you notice between the peace the world gives and the peace Jesus gives?
5. Throughout this study, we’ve named three gaps:
 - “I believe God loves me, but I don’t feel it.” (rooted in shame)
 - “I believe God is with me, but I don’t see it.” (rooted in fear)
 - “I thought I’d be further along by now.” (rooted in striving/comparison)
 - Which one tends to pull you away from feeling “at home” with God the fastest? What could it look like for you to experience God’s shalom when you are triggered?
 6. What would it look like if you were to take one small step this week toward being more at home with God, at peace with yourself, or more gracious with others?

SHALOM

At home with God | At peace with yourself | Gracious toward others

PRAY

We suggest ending your group with prayer. Here’s a sample prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for reminding us that we are already loved, never alone, and free to rest in you. Help us live from your peace—your shalom—in our homes, our work, and our relationships. When fear, shame, or striving start to speak again, may your voice be louder. Teach us to live as people who are at home with you. Amen.

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To explore this topic further, read chapter 9 of *The Expectation Gap: The Tiny, Vast Space between Our Beliefs and Experience of God* by Steve Cuss.

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