



REST IN *peace*

MESSAGE SUMMARY

We all know what it's like to have a bad day—but what about when bad days stretch into weeks or months? What do you do when you're doing everything "right"—praying, serving, reading your Bible, showing up to church—and it still feels like everything is going wrong?

This message shows that Jesus is not a distant God watching from the shore. He's right there with us in the storm. We learn:

1. **God is not in control, but He is in charge**—other wills (sin, Satan, creation) are at work, but God can take chaos and bring good out of it.
2. **God loves you fully and unconditionally**—He's not a cop waiting to catch you or a father ready to punish you. He is the perfect Father who runs to embrace His kids.
3. **God relates to us through grace, not works**—unlike every other religion that demands you "do more," Christianity offers rest because Jesus finished the work on the cross.

The hope? Bad days and storms don't get the final say. God's love and grace do.

CONVERSATION

1. What part of the message stood out to you the most—and why?

Potential Response: Affirm whatever they share and point it back to the truth: storms don't have the final say. God can take what looks broken and use it for good.

2. Be honest—when life feels like one long “bad day,” what’s your default reaction?

Potential Response: Some of us distract ourselves, some get angry, some shut down, some overthink. But none of those bring real peace. Only trusting God can.

3. Genesis 50:20 says, “What you meant for evil, God used for good.” What does it mean that God can bring beauty from chaos?

Potential Response: It means even when we can't see it, God is working. Like Joseph, Job, and Romans 8:28 promise, He can take suffering and use it to shape us and bring purpose.

4. A lot of people see God like a cop, a boss, or a harsh father. How do you honestly see Him right now?

Potential Response: Be open to different answers. Then point them to the truth: God isn't a reflection of imperfect fathers—He's the perfection of one. He loves us without conditions, like the father in the Prodigal Son story.

5. What’s the difference between mercy and grace—and why does it matter?

Potential Response: Mercy is not getting what you deserve. Grace is getting what you could never deserve. Jesus gave us both—He took our punishment (mercy) and gave us new life and power through His Spirit (grace). That's why Christianity is about rest, not restlessness.

6. If Christianity is about rest in what Jesus already finished, what would it look like for you to rest in His grace this week instead of striving in your own strength?