

# bles

- \* ♦ Say these words while making the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads:  
"May you grow in PEACE and bless others with your PATIENCE.  
In Jesus' name. Amen"

## action

- ♦ Every morning this week pray, "God, show me how I can put both PEACE and PATIENCE into ACTION today?"
- \* ♦ Keep a list of ways you experience and express PEACE and PATIENCE this week.
- ♦ Notice what keeps you from releasing PEACE and PATIENCE into the world.

### \* WEEK 3 MEMORY VERSES

*"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7*

*"If we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."  
Romans 8:25*

### 40DAYS commitments

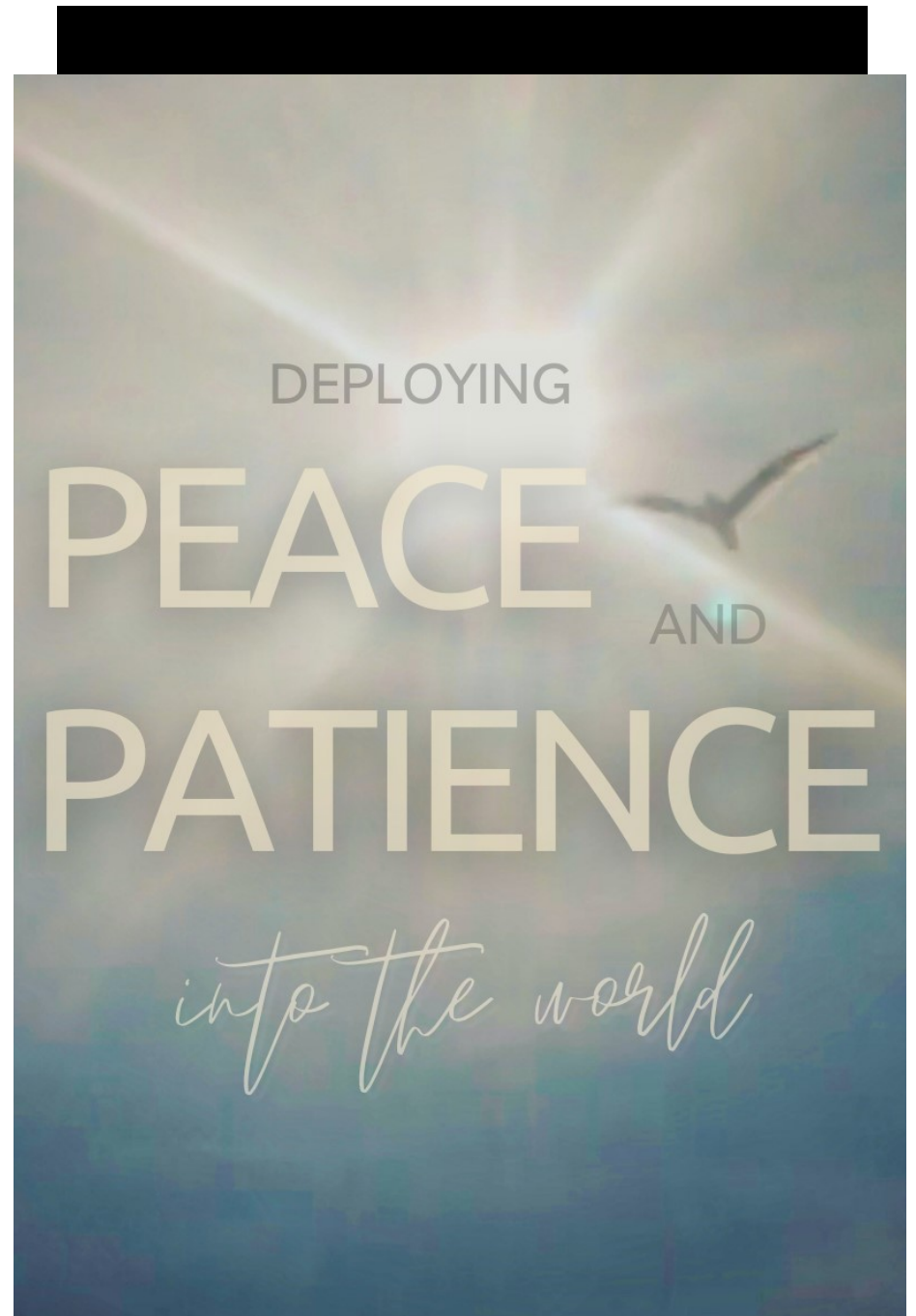
1. HEAR all messages in the Action series
2. READ the daily Bible verses
3. CONNECT in a small group
4. REMEMBER the weekly memory verse
5. SERVE on Impact Weekend Nov 6-7
6. PRAY we are all moved to ACTION to deploy the Fruit of the Spirit into the world
7. SHARE at least one characteristic of the Fruit of Spirit each day

### \* daily Bible readings

*Try reading the passages in the translations suggested (biblegateway.com) Conclude each reading with, "Please, God, help me put your PEACE & PATIENCE into ACTION."*

1. John 14:27 (NLT)
2. Colossians 1:11 (NLT)
3. Romans 5:1b (GNT)
4. Proverbs 16:32 (NCV)
5. Numbers 6:26 (NLT)
6. Romans 5:3 (TLB)
7. Romans 15:5 (NCV)

*40DAYS of ACTION materials developed by Deborah Heierman,  
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\* = KID FRIENDLY!

\* Remember, you get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it.

## share

- \* ♦ What made you feel happy last week? In contrast, how did you experience JOY? Describe the differences you noticed between your happy feelings and bearing the fruit of JOY?
- \* ♦ What were some of the ways your choices helped you put JOY into ACTION?

## read

- ♦ This week, our focus is on both PEACE and PATIENCE as characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit. Everyone longs for a life of peace—but not everyone knows where to find it. Some people seek peace on mountain tops or beaches—but find it to be temporary. Others seek peace through drugs or alcohol—but it, too, is temporary, and always artificial. World governments promise peace—yet wars continue to erupt. Classes are taught, and articles written, on achieving peace—but the storms of life usually leave what peace is gained in rubble. Even solitude can't deliver the peace we crave, as we are still left with ourselves to contend with. Yet it is into this weary, strife-filled world that the Bible speaks real, lasting PEACE and reveals to us its author:

**"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of PEACE."** Isaiah 9:6

- \* ♦ Jesus was named "The Prince of PEACE" hundreds of years before his birth. Angels proclaimed it, and sang about it, on the night he was born:

**"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and PEACE on earth to those with whom God is pleased."** Luke 2:14

Jesus lived a life of PEACE. His ministry was filled with the promise of this PEACE for all who followed him:

**"Love your neighbor as yourself"** Luke 10:27 = PEACE

**"Don't be afraid. Take courage. I am here!"** Matt 14:27 = PEACE

**"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free."** John 8:32 = PEACE

**"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart! I have overcome the world."** John 16:33 = PEACE.

- ♦ How do you think these words of Jesus equal PEACE?

## talk

- ♦ PEACE is more than the absence of conflict—it is everything and everyone working together in the way God intends. How do Jesus' words above exemplify this and encourage us to deploy PEACE into the world?

## read

- \* ♦ Now let's turn our attention to PATIENCE, something so many of us struggle with. Read St. Paul's words to us in Colossians 1:10-11:

**"May God give you complete knowledge of his will and give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. May you be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and PATIENCE you need."**

- \* ♦ Where in your life do you need more PATIENCE right now? How would having more PATIENCE in this area make a difference in your life?

## talk

- ♦ The Greek word for PATIENCE, makrothumia, is interesting in its construction. The first half means "anger" and the other half means "long or slow." So patience really can be defined as "being able to handle one's anger slowly." How does this apply to what you just shared?
- ♦ How is PATIENCE action-oriented, and different from passive acceptance?
- ♦ How do you think PATIENCE and PEACE are connected?
- ♦ How does God model PEACE and PATIENCE for us, and with us?

## pray

- \* ♦ Pray for each other, seeking PEACE through the model of Jesus. Pray bravely for God to present opportunities this week for us to practice PATIENCE.
- ♦ Pray for the empty chair in your group to be filled.
- ♦ In closing, pray The Serenity Prayer together, a prayer that asks God for PEACE and PATIENCE:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen