



A Kiss Does Not Make As Much Noise As A Bomb!
- Gabriela Church

On Wednesday at our WPC Bible reflection and prayer time on Zoom Shizue led us in a Bible reflection and then a discussion about the newly started war that began when Hamas bombed, raided and took hostages in Israel. We spoke of the complicated history and tension between Israel and Palestinians. We spoke of the pain that has been inflicted by both sides for many decades. We also felt continued concern for the war in Ukraine. We felt powerless and cynical. We spoke of how, at times, it is hard to see the good in the world with so much war, strife, disease, killing, ecological destruction, and more.

For when dealing with disillusionment two wise statements were made by our study members:

1. If you don't see Good in the world then DO some!-Margo Loehr
2. A kiss does not make as much noise as a bomb!-Gabriela Church

If you are having trouble seeing good in the world then go and do some!

Also just open your eyes to see that the-more-subtle love and goodness is everywhere! Look for it! Love is not as noisy as a bomb and usually does not make headlines, but it is all around us! Hugs of love are all around us!

-An unhoused person sharing their lunch with another hungry person on the levee.

-A fine young man who is kindly helping chop vegetables, to fulfill his community service.

-A volunteer tutoring a child who is learning to read.

-The woman I met recently that used to work for Housing Matters and continues to work through non-profits to spur affordable housing in Santa Cruz. This woman herself could not afford a home but was helping others get a home!

Pray for God to open your eyes to see all the Good and Beauty that God is doing in our world. Pray for God to open your eyes to opportunities for you to be part of doing Good in our world in daily, often, quiet actions of love. We have access to the Author and Creator of all love, and the more we spend time aware of God's presence the more we will receive and give love in this world.

God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. -1John 4:16

Jesus came to save us and to usher in the Kingdom of God (God's love) here on earth!

The kingdom of God, Jesus replied, is not something people will be able to see and point to... for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."-Luke 17:21

May you know joy as you abide in God and overflow with God's love!

I appreciate you, the Westview family, and am grateful to walk in life together discovering God's goodness and lavish love!

Pastor Dan