



ADVENT WEEK 2: PEACE

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FROM 12/5/21

SERMON SUMMARY

The word *peace* is common in most languages. Typically, when we think of peace, we think about the absence of conflict between nations or even in our own lives. But the biblical meaning of the word for peace (“Shalom” in the Old Testament) refers to more than simply the absence of conflict or war. Peace, in the Scriptures, refers to wholeness and completeness in life. When Isaiah promises in 9:6 that the the coming Messiah would be “Prince of Peace,” he refers to the complete wholeness Jesus would bring to the nation of Israel and to the world. This week for our Advent focus, we will explore what it means that Jesus is our peace.

Key Passages: Isaiah 9:6-7, John 14:27, Romans 5:1, Ephesians 4:1-6

Be sure to read these Scripture passages together before you proceed to the “Grow” section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW—Spend some time finding out how everyone’s week has gone. *The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or “connection” activity or with questions appropriate to your context.*

What is something that you are thankful for this week?

What is something that is causing you stress or concern this week?

Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW—Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

When you read Isaiah 9:6-7, what seems to be the extent of the peace promised? How will that peace be established?

When a kingdom or nation experiences peace, what does that look like? Think beyond simply the absence of conflict. Has our nation experienced such peace very often?

Read John 14:27. How is the peace Christ brings distinct from the type of peace the world promises.

What is the type of peace Paul discusses in Romans 5:1?

What has caused the absence of peace between humans and God?

How has Jesus enabled peace to be restored between humans and God?

How can restored peace with God result in the kind of peace represented by the word “shalom”—completeness and wholeness? Has the world ever truly experienced such peace?

In Ephesians 4, Paul speaks of peace that should exist between believers. The context is the previously strained relationship between Jews and Gentiles that the first century church was used to. How does peace with God enable peace with other humans?

Who are the Christians in your life (individuals or even groups of people) with whom you struggle to get along? How does Jesus enable peace between you and them? Are you submitting to Him in this area?

GO—Talk through ways you can put what you’ve learned into practice.

How are you experiencing the true peace of Christ in your life right now? With God? With others, with yourself?

Who do you need to reconcile with based on the fact that you have received peace with God.

How can the message of the gospel bring peace to our world? How can we the Church be a source of hope as we wait for the second coming of the Prince of Peace?

