



2020 ADVENT SERIES
“THE PEACE OF HIS PRESENCE”

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: NOV 29, 2020

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:
LUKE 1+2

Pastor Brad kicked off our Advent series this week with a familiar story. He walked us through the birth of Jesus, but did so in a unique way. We learned how Jesus' birth fits into a larger story, one that includes a dictator, a long-oppressed tribe, and a revolution. There was very little that was peaceful about the story of Jesus' birth, or the context he entered.

Even so, there is this pronouncement of peace right in the middle of the story (Luke 2:14). Luke's not reciting a quote about a Roman peace, imposed by this powerful empire which would crush you if you were not "peaceful." He's highlighting the peace of God that is now among us with Jesus' birth. The King's arrival initiates a peace-filled Kingdom. As we move toward celebrating Christmas, we now have context for this holiday's "Why?"

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
2. What was your high/low for this past week (or since the group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?
3. What is your favorite Christmas tradition?
4. What is the best gift you have ever been given?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How did the Roman Empire's understanding of peace differ from God's?
2. What message does the angel deliver to Mary in Luke 1?
3. What can we learn about Mary based on her response to the angel in verses 51-56?
4. How does Mary connect her coming child to the story of her people?
5. Why is Luke 2:7 significant to our understanding of the experience of the tribe Jesus was born into?
6. What does the name "Jesus" mean?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Who do you see pursuing peace in your community?
2. Do you believe the Church is more peaceful than those communities in our city not following Jesus?

CONTINUED:

3. On a larger scale, what people groups are seeking peace around the world right now?
4. How do people seem to define peace in your family and workplace?
5. In your opinion, do you think that peace in our country is possible?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to apply the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How are you seeking peace on a weekly basis?
2. What parts of your life are more peaceful? What parts less?
3. What is your definition of peace?
4. How has that changed over your lifetime?
5. Do you believe inner peace is possible?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. In which of your relationships do you need more peace? How can you pursue that?
2. Who can be your partner in prayer during this Advent Season? How can you seek peace in your prayer life?
3. Our church is seeking peace and wholeness in our city, how can you be a part of this restorative process?

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