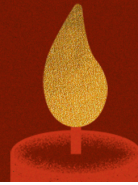




the season of ADVENT

December 3, 2023



SERIES OVERVIEW:

Join us for the season of Advent as we unpack the story of Jesus - our true hope, our source of peace, the bringing of joy, and the one who shows us the true love that God has for us. God's salvation is a person, and that person's name is Jesus. This advent, may we remember that the pain that we see becomes the peace that we need only when we run it through the person of Christ.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Pastor Brannon helped us unpack the reality that Shalom is *the way things were supposed to be*. However, our world is broken; we are sinful and fallen, and the results are all around us. How have you seen *unshalom* around you personally (as you feel led to share) or in those God has entrusted to you or your community?
 - *As the Holy Spirit leads, pause to lift up each of these circumstances of unshalom to Jesus.*
- Re-read Isaiah 11:1-9. What key truths or phrases stand out to you? How does this ground us in understanding the true peace found in the person of Jesus?
- ***Pain that you see becomes the peace that you need only when you run it through the person of Christ.***
 - We talked about how anger is often the easiest emotion that masks deeper areas of hurt and unbelief in our lives. Take some time to talk about how we tangibly take our pains to Jesus.
 - *Encourage one another in the reality of their pain, being sensitive to hold what is shared in confidence. Don't seek to give solutions but to intercede before Jesus.*

- We ended with four ways to have & spread God's peace:
 - 1) start at the beginning (we forget things aren't supposed to be this way)
 - 2) be honest about the problem (I am a sinner. On my own, I love things God hates. I have both been the object of pain and contributed to someone else's pain.)
 - 3) be clear about the solution (peace through forgiveness, only found in Jesus)
 - 4) Be genuine about your hope
- *Take some time to dialogue about how these can guide our conversations and posture this Christmas season.*