

THRIVE AT HOME - HOME FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK 1

Sunday Peace – Numbers 6:24-26

In our second week of advent, we'll explore the biblical meaning of peace and how it all leads to Jesus. Watch a special short video by Bibleproject on peace at Thriveny.org/connect.

Monday – Proverbs 16:7

The Hebrew word for peace is shalom, and it describes not only the absence of conflict but also the presence of completion, reconciliation, and justice. **Reflect:**

- Considering what you have learned in the Bible so far. Name five habits (thoughts, actions, or words) that you believe are pleasing to God.
- How do you think these habits could make peace even between enemies?

Tuesday – Isaiah 9:6-7

The prophet Isaiah looked forward to the arrival of a future King, who would make a covenant of shalom with his people. His reign would right all wrongs and heal all brokenness. **Reflect:**

- What words or phrases stand out to you as you observe this passage?
- Based on this passage, how does the Prince of Peace govern his Kingdom?
- How can you help bring about God's peaceful rule in the places where you have influence?
- Pray to ask the Prince of Peace to govern over and through you this week.

Wed – Luke 2:9-15

The prophet Isaiah looked forward to the arrival of the Prince of Peace, whose reign would lead to eternal shalom. Isaiah's words were fulfilled with the arrival of Jesus. This is why it is so significant that the angels described Jesus' birth as "peace on earth." **Reflect:**

- Why do you think God announced the arrival of the King to no-name shepherds? What does this tell you about the nature of God and his Kingdom?
- Imagine being there with the shepherds that night. How would you feel? How would you respond?
- Notice the words "highest" and "earth" in the angel's worshipful announcement. What came from the heights of heaven down to earth when Jesus was born? How is this good news? Let your reflections prompt a prayer to express your feelings of awe and gratitude.

Thurs – Colossians 1:19-23

Biblical history shows how humanity has chosen its own ways apart from God and suffered as a result. But God wants to be close to humanity, and he knows how painful it is to be separated from him, so he sent Jesus to make peace. Through Jesus, all things can be restored to harmony with God again. **Reflect:**

- According to this passage, what did God want to do and how did he accomplish it through Jesus?
- Consider all that Jesus suffered and overcame in order to make a way for humanity to be in God's holy presence once again. Let your reflections prompt a prayer to express your feelings of awe and gratitude.

Fri – Good News - Ephesians 2:11-15, Ephesians 4:1-3, Ephesians 4:29-32

The apostle Paul says Jesus himself is our peace. Jesus removed all the things that separate humanity from one another and from God and now offers his peace to others as a gift. Jesus' followers are called to receive, keep, and cultivate this gift of peace, which requires humility, gentleness, patience, and love. **Reflect:**

- According to this passage, how did Jesus make peace between two sharply divided people groups (Jews and Gentiles), and why did he do it (see verse 2:16)?
- Do you feel alienated from anyone in your life? Do you want to enjoy peace with this person again? Why or why not? Consider what Jesus did to make peace. What questions and emotions surface as you reflect on this?
- Review Ephesians 4:1-3 carefully. How do you think humility, gentleness, patience, and love help to maintain the unity Jesus made for his followers? What happens when one of these virtues is missing? You can't make choices for others, but what is one practical decision you can make today to cultivate peace?
- Review Ephesians 4:29-32 closely. How has Jesus forgiven you? Who needs your forgiveness?

Sat – Good News - Philippians 4:1-9

The apostle Paul writes his letter to the Philippians from prison. He knows hardship, but he also knows the peace of God. This is because biblical peace, like hope, is based on a person and not on circumstances. Paul calls followers to rejoice in God at all times, to pray, to give thanks, and to think on what is good and true. Paul shows how these habits can lead to experiencing the peace of God even in the midst of great difficulty. **Reflect:**

- Make a list of all the instructions Paul gives in Philippians 4:1-9 (i.e. “stand firm in the Lord,” “live in harmony,” etc).
- Observe your list and imagine making each one into a habit. What would those habits practically look like in your daily life? How do you think those habits would eventually lead to an experience of God’s peace?
- Review verses 7 and 9. What do you observe? What do these verses tell us about the protective nature of God’s peace? Express your gratitude for his protection now.

Unpack this past Sunday’s Next Gen lesson at home to help your kids grow in their faith! Use a talk point in the car or around the table and have fun with the activities! Your home can THRIVE this week!



Monday - God Sees Me (Like He Saw Mary) - Luke 1:28

TALK: Where did you feel noticed today? Where did you wish someone had seen you?”

ACTIVITY: Materials: paper, scissors, marker. Cut out simple star shapes. Write on each: “God sees you!”. Kids decorate them quickly and hang on a doorknob or fridge. Say together: “Jesus, thank You for seeing me.”



Tuesday - God Gives Me Purpose (Just Like Mary) - Luke 1:30–31

TALK: What are you really good at? What do you love doing? How could God use that this Christmas?

ACTIVITY: Materials: paper, markers, something to hang with. Draw a circle (ornament shape). Inside, write or draw one thing God made you good at. Decorate it and hang it somewhere visible. Pray: “Jesus, use this gift in my life.”



Wednesday - I Can Say YES to God (Like Mary Did) - Luke 1:38

TALK: What is something small you can say YES to for Jesus today?” Examples: sharing, encouraging someone.

ACTIVITY : Play a Christmas song. When the music stops, freeze and shout: “YES, God!” End with: “Jesus, help us say yes to all the good things You have this week.”



Thursday - God Is With Me (Emmanuel) - John 1:14

TALK: “Where did you feel Jesus close to you today?” If someone says, “I didn’t feel Him,” respond warmly: “That’s okay — He was still with you. Where do you hope to feel Him tomorrow?”

ACTIVITY: Make cocoa (or warm drink). Every time someone takes a sip, they must thank Jesus for one thing.



Friday - I Bring Jesus to the World (Like Mary Did) - Luke 1:32–33

TALK: Who needs Jesus’ love this week? Talk about a friend, a neighbor, a teacher, someone lonely. Let kids pick one person to show love to and do it together.

ACTIVITY: Materials: paper, crayons, tape. Write down or draw something you love about someone you know and give it to them today to encourage them.

COME BACK TO THRIVE NEXT SUNDAY 🎉 FOR CHRISTMAS KIDS PARTY AT THRIVE!

Christmas at Thrive – Save the Dates!

Parties & Outreaches

- **Men’s Christmas Party** - Ax throwing and lunch! Dec.13th 11:30AM-1PM at Knights Den, Lansing.
- **Outreach Weekend** – Dec. 13th 2-3 PM. Kids and babies toys and clothing giveaway! Drop off giveaway items (clean and working) starting 7th at Thrive. Dec. 14th – Pick up Sunday gifts under tree.

Special Services – Who can you invite?

- **Deck the Halls Kids Sunday!** Dec. 14th –Christmas Tree and decorating contest.
- **Christmas at Thrive** – Dec. 21st – Kids Christmas production, hot cocoa bar and more!
- **Carols and Candles** – Dec. 24th, 6-7pm (prompt). Spend this special evening with carols, candlelight and scripture in community encountering God’s presence together. Families welcome!