



EXPERIENCE THE GIFT OF PEACE

Opening Prayer

God, thank You that in this season of Advent, we can experience Your gift of peace. Help us to live in the peace You provided through Jesus, rest in the peace You give in the midst of life, and trust in the peace of knowing You have overcome the world. Fill us and hold us with Your peace as we encounter You and experience the depth and richness of life You provide both now and forever.

Scripture Focus

- 2 Thessalonians 3:16 – The Lord of peace be with you always
- Romans 5:1–2 – Peace with God through faith
- Philippians 4:6–7 – Peace that surpasses understanding

Encourage participants to read each passage aloud together or take turns.

Main Point 1: Peace with God

Read: Romans 5:1–2; Colossians 1:19–20

Our greatest need is peace with God and peace with one another. Jesus was once asked, “What is the greatest commandment (Matt. 22:34-40)?”. Jesus’ answer of loving God with all your heart, might, and strength does not surprise us, but then Jesus adds the command to love one’s neighbor as one would love oneself. This commandment was met with great surprise. Ultimately, loving ourselves and loving our neighbor can only come through Jesus’s atoning death and resurrection from the grave. Peace with God amplifies the now broken sin barrier, and we are reconciled to Him. The peace Christ gives restores our relationship with the Creator and gives believers the security of eternal salvation. When we know God, we know peace; when we trust Christ, we find rest for our souls. This Christmas, share the gift of peace you have received with others you may encounter as you go about each day’s journey.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to have peace with God?
2. How does Jesus’s sacrifice make this peace possible?
3. How can you rest in your restored relationship with God this week?

Reflective Prompt

Thank God for reconciling you to Himself through Jesus.

Main Point 2: Peace Within

Read: Philippians 4:6–7; John 14:27

Peace within comes when we surrender our worries to God in prayer and thanksgiving. This peace transcends understanding—it guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus even when circumstances are chaotic. Having peace within does not mean believers never undergo difficult situations or times of great angst. Peace within is based on having a personal relationship with the One who promised to send the Helper. The Helper, also called the Comforter... is God, the Holy Spirit, and He resides within every believer. God is Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is Trinity. Therefore, peace is not passive; it's an active trust in the nearness and sufficiency of God's only Son, and our only Savior, the Christ-child, Jesus Christ, who through His birth and death ushers in peace within that can only come when we allow the Comforter to have His way in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some anxieties you need to release to God today?
2. How has God given you peace in a difficult time before?
3. How can you remind yourself daily that the Lord is near?

Reflective Prompt

Write down one verse about peace to meditate on this week.

Main Point 3: Peace to Come

Read: John 16:33; Isaiah 9:6–7; Revelation 21:1–4

While we experience peace now, the fullness of peace will come when Christ returns to make all things new. In a world filled with unrest, we hold on to the promise that the introduction of the Christ-child has overcome the world and that ultimate peace came to earth, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death, was resurrected with all authority in heaven and on earth in His hands, and will someday return to make all things new. Until then, we live as ambassadors of His peace, reflecting His calm and biblical confidence in every situation.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to live with eternal peace in mind?
2. How can focusing on Christ's victory give you strength today?
3. How can you bring peace into your relationships or community?

Reflective Prompt

Pray for God's peace to reign in your heart and in the world.

Closing Thought

Peace is not the absence of trouble but the presence of Christ. As we trust the Prince of Peace, we experience His calm within, reconciliation with God, and the assurance of perfect peace to come.

Closing Benediction

Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. — 2 Thessalonians 3:16