



WEEK 2 Peace

ICEBREAKER

Of all the Christmas songs that have been sung, what is your go-to song to stir some Christmas cheer for you? If you are comfortable - hum or sing a line or two :)

SCRIPTURE READING

Read together as a group: **1 Peter 2**. Take turns reading a verse at a time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• Barriers to peace in our personal relationships come in varied forms. The top ten common causes of conflict according to Rodney Wilson (Marriage/Family Pastor/Counselor 20+yrs). They are listed in order with one being the most common:

- 1) Money
 - 2) Children
 - 3) Sex
 - 4) Work
 - 5) In-laws
 - 6) Time Commitments
 - 7) Ex's
 - 8) Misunderstanding
 - 9) Unrealistic Expectations
 - 10) Stern Talk (Sarcasm)
- (If you listen to the audio message these are explained in more detail)

Of these top ten causes for conflict, which is the least likely to be an issue in your home?

Which is the greatest cause of conflict in your relationship?

What type of conflict "discussion" are you likely to avoid?

• **Read:** 1 Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

Read: James 5:16

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

How do the above two verses connect and what importance is being set apart as a royal priesthood for ourselves and for others?

• **Read:** 1 Peter 3:9

"Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."

Read: Romans 12:14

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."

Share about a time or situation when you were able to act out what these scriptures instruct us to do in order to keep ourselves at peace. What was the final outcome with the other person(s)?

- The season of Christmas reminds us of the condescension of Christ the only-begotten Son of God underwent in order to minister to us mere mortals. He paid the price for our peace toward heaven and each other. God the Son is called the Prince of Peace. He came into the world with a song of peace. He went out of the world with a legacy of peace, *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you."* Christ's earnest prayer was for peace; He prayed that His people might be one. Christ not only prayed for peace, but bled for peace: 'Having made peace through the blood of His cross.' He died not only to make peace between God and man, but between man and man. Christ suffered on the cross, that He might cement Christians together with His blood; as He prayed for peace, so He paid for peace.

What's one practical loving initiative you might offer that would signal to others you want to get past your differences, for the sake of Christ?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

As we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent (Peace), we have an assurance that Christ Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Is there unresolved conflict currently in your life? What is Jesus saying to you as to his direction for being an instrument of peace? If you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you to take the first step - will you? - for the sake of Christ that He may be glorified through your obedience. In your quiet time, pray about your situation and that Jesus reveals to you how to be an agent of peace.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Be the one. Be that person that impacts another's life for the better. As agents of peace we are equipped and enabled to be Jesus' hands and feet. Allow the Holy Spirit to bring glory to God through you by being present in others' moments of weakness, of anger, of confusion - be observant of others around you and how you can be the one that will bring a piece of His peace into their current situation. If you look around opportunities are everywhere - especially this time of the year.

PRAISE REPORTS / PRAYER REQUESTS