

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS at VICTORY



Leader Conversation Guide – Advent: Peace

Main Idea

This week Pastor Curt continued in our Advent series, Christmas at Victory. He unpacked the second theme of Advent which is Peace. Everybody is looking for peace. Some people find peace in a beach chair sipping on sweet tea. Some find peace in the deer stand, some find it at the spa! Where do you find peace? Peace is sometimes thought of as the absence of something. For example, the absence of conflict. That's referred to as situational peace. There's nothing wrong with situational peace. Every once in a while, we need to pull away from the chaos to find a little peace. But the problem with situational peace is, it depends on the situation, and situations can turn on a dime. Phillipians 4:7 describes a peace that only comes through Jesus, that is beyond our ability to comprehend it. Even in those situations where we wouldn't normally have peace, we can experience it. This is true peace!

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Phillipians 4:7 ESV

Make it Practical

- **Peace is a product of presence.** Read Phillipians 4:7.
Shalom - "Wholeness or Complete"
When we refer to people who are struggling, we use phrases like 'falling apart' or 'going to pieces'. We use words that describe a fragmented reality which is the opposite of biblical peace – wholeness. The reign of Jesus is marked by completeness. Wholeness. Peace.
- **Peace, in the middle of the storm comes from being in the presence of Jesus.** Read Mark 4:39-41, Isaiah 26:3.
Reading the passage in Mark 4, The disciples are learning a valuable lesson here that we all need to learn. Peace is a product of presence. If they only fully understood who was there with them? We need to remember that no matter what situation we find ourselves in, He is with us. Peace, in the middle of the storm comes from being in the presence of Jesus.

Talk About It

- When you hear the word peace, what are the first images that come to mind?
- When the storms of life come, whose presence are you inviting into your life?
- Which of the names of Jesus listed in Isaiah 9:6 do you need most in this season? Why?

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6 ESV

Prayer

Father, thank You for the peace which passes all understanding, that only You can provide. Help us to fix our focus on You, and find our peace in You and You alone! We invite Your peace and presence in our lives. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Leader Tip

This world needs Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy. More than ever before! This Christmas season, share the PEACE of Jesus with others. This weekend we will finish in our Advent series, and you won't want to miss it! Invite someone to our Advent - Christmas at Victory series!