

ADVENT

HOPE JOY LOVE PEACE

Leader Conversation Guide – Advent (Part III): JOY

Main Idea

This week Pastor Curt continued our Advent series by sharing about PEACE. Jesus tells us that in this world, we will have trouble. But the peace Jesus gives, completes us and empowers us to remain steadfast in Him. Sometimes this can seem impossible when we look at our circumstances through the human lens, rather than filtering them through the promises of God. So how do we close the gap between earthly circumstances, and the promises of God?

**I have told you these things, so that
in Me you may have peace. In this world
you will have trouble. But take heart!
I have overcome the world.**

JOHN 16:33

Make It Practical:

How we try to close the gap on our own:

- We try to close it with worldly solutions.
 - John 14:27
 - The peace offered by the world is counterfeit and never lasts.
 - Worldly Peace = Absence of Troubles
 - Isaiah 8:19-20
 - Stop seeking second opinions when God has already spoken.
 - Godly Peace = The presence of Jesus in the midst of trouble.

How we close the gap in accordance with the promises of God:

- Abide
 - Philippians 4:6-9
 - “...guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus... and the God of peace will be with you.”
- Present your troubles to God
 - John 16:33
 - “But take heart! I have overcome the world!”
 - Look at the storm, but look twice at Jesus!
 - Know your circumstances, but know His peace first.

Talk About It

- What part of this message impacted you the most?
- What area of your life do you need to filter through the promises of God, rather than your human lens of the world?
- How can you share the peace of God with others in your life?

“As long as a Christian is in the world he will be pressed as though by a great mob; he will be crushed in spirit as though great crushing weights were lying on his chest; he will know spiritual anguish like that of a mother in labor. This, Jesus has told us. When He speaks, therefore, of peace, it is not the peace of unruffled days but the inner confidence of the warrior who is weary, thirsty, outnumbered, and wounded, but who fights bravely on, confident of the outcome, assured of victory. We are saved not from trouble; we are saved in trouble.” – Donald E. Miller (Professor of Religion, USC)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your gift of peace. We know that despite the circumstances that surround us, we can abide in You and present our troubles to You. Holy Spirit, help us to keep the lens of our soul filtered through Your promises. Be with us in all trouble, and help us to overcome the doubts and fears we face each day. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Leader Tip

Remind Group members to invite someone to join us for a Christmas Eve service!