

XXXIX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX - Jeremiah | Advent - Peace

Main Idea

Every December, we hear words like “peace on earth,” and “imagine a life free from conflict, pressure, or worry.” But Jeremiah reminds us real peace doesn’t come from perfect circumstances, it comes from a perfect God. Judah was facing invasion, hardship, and uncertainty, yet God continued to speak promises of hope, restoration, and a future. In the middle of chaos, He invites His people to return to Him, to walk the “ancient paths,” and to find rest for their souls.

This week’s message from Pastor Curt showed us that while the world cannot offer lasting peace, Jesus can. The angels declared it at His birth, and He confirmed it in His teachings: peace isn’t something around us, it’s something He puts within us. Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, our identity is restored, and our future is secure. Even when circumstances feel unavoidable, people feel unbearable, or life feels uncontrollable, peace is still possible because God is still faithful.

As we begin our discussion, let’s open our hearts to the God who knows us, calls us, and welcomes us into His peace. No matter what we’re walking through, His favor rests on us, and His peace is available. Right here, and right now.

**I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart!
And the peace I give isn’t fragile like the peace the world gives.
So don’t be troubled or afraid. JOHN 14:27**

Make it Practical:

Peace is not found in circumstances around you, but in Christ within you.

- Earth will not experience perfect peace, but you can experience peace in your heart (Luke 2:14).
- Jesus said we would face trouble, yet His peace remains steady and trustworthy (John 16:33).
- Peace comes from walking in God’s way, not resisting His path (Jeremiah 6:16).

You can have peace because God’s grace is greater than your biggest failures.

- God offers forgiveness and restoration when we turn to Him (1 John 1:9).
- He promises to remember our sins no more (Jeremiah 31:34).
- You are not defined by what you’ve done; in Christ you are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Peace becomes possible when you trust God with your future.

- God’s plans for you are good, full of hope and purpose (Jeremiah 29:11).
- Nothing is too hard for God; He can redeem what feels broken (Jeremiah 32:17).
- Through faith in Christ, we have peace with God and a secure future (Romans 5:1).

Talk About It

Jeremiah 6:16 describes a moment of “standing at the crossroads.” What crossroads—decisions, habits, or thought patterns—do you feel you’re standing at right now? What might it look like to choose the “ancient path” that leads to rest for your soul?

The sermon highlighted several reasons we struggle to experience peace: unavoidable circumstances, unbearable people, unexplainable problems, and uncontrollable worry. Which of these tends to disrupt your peace the most, and why? How have you seen God meet you in those moments?

The angels declared “peace on earth” at Jesus’s birth, yet Jesus later said He did not come to bring the kind of peace the world expects. How does this tension shape your understanding of the kind of peace God offers? Where have you experienced His peace in a way that didn’t depend on external circumstances?

There may never be peace around you, but you can experience peace within you.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for being the source of true peace. In a world full of noise, pressure, and uncertainty, we look to You as the One who calms our hearts. Help us walk in the “good way” You show us, trusting Your grace, Your guidance, and Your plans for our lives. Remind us that Your peace is present and available, no matter what we face. As we go from this place, fill us with Your Spirit and let Your peace lead us in every step. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Next Steps

Return to God’s path daily:

Set aside intentional time each day this week to pause, pray, and ask God to show you the “good way” (Jeremiah 6:16). Choose one small act of obedience that aligns your life with His direction.

Bring your unrest to God honestly:

Identify one area, be it circumstances, relationships, worries, or struggles, where you lack peace. Confess it to God, receive His grace, and invite Him to bring peace within you rather than waiting for peace around you.

Anchor your identity in Christ’s truth:

Write down a Scripture about who you are in Christ (such as 2 Corinthians 5:17 or Jeremiah 31:34). Read it aloud each morning this week, letting God’s Word reshape your thoughts, emotions, and outlook.