

December 7, 2025

Series: Christmas Advent

Title: PEACE

Passage: Matthew 2:1–18; Isaiah 9:6, John 14:27, 16:33

Bottom Line: Jesus brings a lasting peace no other avenue offers. Jesus offers peace no one can strip away.

Opening

- **Quick connection:** *Share a lighthearted Christmas joke from the weekend (or pick from the teaching).*
- **Last week's challenge:** *Commit to celebrate Advent. How did it go?*
- **Define Advent:** *"Coming" or "arrival"—looking back to Jesus' birth and forward to His return.*
- **Frame the theme:** Peace often feels elusive—internally (fear, anxiety, guilt), externally (relationships, culture, world events). Jesus didn't come as the *Prince of Busy* but the Prince of Peace.

Peace Predicted

Read Isaiah 9:6–7 together.

Discussion Questions

1. Isaiah calls the Messiah the *Prince of Peace*. Which of these titles stands out to you most right now, and why?
2. Isaiah's prophecy uses "government" and "reign" language. How does this deepen your understanding of biblical peace compared to a simple feeling of calm?
3. Where do people today tend to look for peace—politics, power, wealth, self-help? What makes Jesus different from these sources?

Key Insight: *Peace in Scripture is shalom—wholeness, restoration, things made right. Jesus' reign brings the kind of peace that endures.*

Peace Arrives

Read Matthew 2:1–12 together.

Discussion Questions

1. Compare the responses to Jesus' birth: the Magi (worship) vs. Herod (threatened). What do these reactions reveal about the human heart?
2. What stands out to you about the Magi—outsiders who eagerly sought and worshiped Jesus?
3. The Magi brought costly gifts. What does it look like for you to offer Jesus your attention, trust, or obedience this season?

Key Insight: *Jesus' kingship is humble, restoring, and invitational—unlike the grasping, anxious, violent "kingships" we often live under.*

Peace Threatened but Not Lost

Read Matthew 2:13–18 together.

Discussion Questions

1. Herod's response shows the chaos of a world without Christ's peace. Where do you see "Herod-like" chaos—externally or internally—in our world today?
2. What does this passage reveal about the depth of conflict Jesus entered into at His birth?

3. Jesus later said, “*My peace I give you... not as the world gives*” (John 14:27). How is His peace different from temporary calm?

4. Which response to *Christmas Peace* best describes you right now—threatened, apathetic, or open? Why?

Key Insight: Jesus entered real conflict and suffering, not to avoid it but to overcome it. His peace restores what is broken.

Practice: Inviting the Peace of Christ

Choose one step this week:

- **Reflect:** Where am I seeking peace apart from Jesus?
- **Release:** What burden, fear, or chaos do I need to place under Jesus’ care?
- **Receive:** Spend a moment daily in prayer using this Scripture: “*Take heart! I have overcome the world.*” (John 16:33)
- **Other:** What will you do this week in light of what we have studied together as we continue to celebrate Advent?