

And He Shall Be Called...Prince of Peace

Reflect

1. What comes to mind when you think of the word peace?
2. When was the last time you experienced what you would describe as peace?
3. Where do you feel the most at peace?

Read Your Bible

- Isaiah 9:2-6
- John 14:27
- Philippians 4:6-8

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. The word for peace used in Isaiah 9:6 is the Hebrew word, "shalom," which can also be understood as meaning harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, safety and contentment. How does "shalom" align or differ from your current understanding of "peace?"
2. Name some ways Jesus embodies "shalom."
3. In John 14:27, he tells us that he gives us and leaves us with his peace. In what ways does the peace Jesus offers differ from the peace of the world?
4. In your relationship with Jesus, when was a time you experienced peace ("shalom")?
5. In Philippians 4:6-8 Paul suggests that even in the midst of anxiety or any situation that God can give us peace through Jesus. Where in your life or the world around you do you need the assurance of the unshakable love and salvation of God in Jesus?

Conclusion

Jesus is the Prince of Peace – shalom – the one who makes us right with God (harmony), who has the power to heal and restore our broken place (wholeness/completeness), who offers us salvation (safety) and makes us inheritors of God's kingdom (prosperity). In Jesus all our soul's needs are met for our daily living (contentment). As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth during Advent, we are invited to give thanks to God for the peace we currently experience in Christ as well as honestly confess those areas in our life where we can further invite Jesus in to receive his peace. Jesus promises us that he doesn't give as the world gives – his peace isn't fickle. He wants to give us his all-encompassing and enduring peace.

Pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your son, Jesus, into our chaotic and messy world. The peace Jesus gives transcends all understanding. It provides a solid and safe place for our souls no matter what we face. Fill our hearts with the peace of Christ so we can respond to the world around us with your peace and love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.