

When God Shows Up

Sermon Study - 12.7.2025

Leader Corner

Advent Week 2

Peace

Advent Week 2: Peace: When God Shows up in Unlikely Ways

Theme: Preparation Brings Peace

Main Idea: The second week of Advent focuses on preparing our hearts for the peace that surpasses all understanding in the coming Messiah.

Main Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Main Practice: Actively prepare your heart and mind to receive the shalom (peace, well-being) that Jesus offers.

Leader Note: Peace (*shalom* in Hebrew) is more than the absence of conflict. It also refers to the presence of wholeness, well-being, and restoration. This week, guide your group to explore biblical peace through the lens of Scripture and personal reflection. Encourage participants to think about how God's peace intersects with the brokenness in the world, and how they are called to embody it in their own lives.

Prayer & Praise

Worship Together:

- Prince of Peace — Hillsong Worship
- It is Well — Kristene DiMarco or any version

Group Prayer (read aloud):

Lord, as we prepare our hearts this Advent, fill us with Your peace. Help us embody humility, gentleness, patience, and love so that we may reflect Your shalom in our lives. Let Your peace guide our decisions and interactions this week. Amen.

Prayer Focus:

- Invite participants to share one area of life where they are seeking God's peace.
- Take a moment to thank God for His reconciling work through Jesus.

Principle

Watch the Bible Project Video on Advent, Peace “Shalom”

Discussion Guide:

1. Discuss anything from the sermon that caught your attention about Peace.
2. Anticipating the Prince of Peace — Isaiah 9:6-7
 - Read Isaiah 9:6-7 aloud together.
 - What words or phrases stand out to you? Why?
 - How does this passage shape your understanding of God’s plan for shalom?
3. God Announces Peace to the Humble — Luke 2:9-15
 - Reflect on the shepherds receiving the announcement of Jesus’ birth.
 - Why do you think God chose ordinary shepherds to hear the good news first?
 - What does this reveal about God’s Kingdom and the nature of His peace?
4. Restoring Humanity — Colossians 1:19-23
 - Humanity often chooses paths apart from God, resulting in suffering.
 - How does God remedy this pain through Jesus according to this passage?
 - How does this demonstrate that biblical peace is both relational and restorative?
5. Peace Between Divided Peoples — Ephesians 2:11-16
 - How did Jesus make peace between Jews and Gentiles?
 - Why was this reconciliation necessary (see Ephesians 2:16)?
 - How does Jesus’ gift of peace challenge divisions in our world today?
6. Maintaining Unity — Ephesians 4:1-3
 - Reflect on humility, gentleness, patience, and love as tools for unity.
 - What happens when one of these virtues is missing in a community?
 - How can practicing these virtues help prepare our hearts for Christ’s peace?

Practice

Shalom Reflection:

- Ask each group member to identify one area of life where peace is lacking.
- Invite them to write a short prayer asking God to bring restoration, reconciliation, or calm in that area.

Peace in Action:

- Encourage members to perform one tangible act of peace this week.
 - Reconcile with someone they've been in conflict with.
 - Mediate or listen with gentleness in a tense situation.
 - Extend hospitality or kindness to someone in need.
- Share these intentions with the group and commit to praying for one another's efforts.

Further Resources

Daily Readings on Peace:

Monday — Isaiah 9:6-7

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Ponder: How does God's promise of the Prince of Peace inspire hope in your heart today?

Tuesday — Luke 2:9-15

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them... and said, 'I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'"

Ponder: How can hearing God's message of peace change your perspective, even in ordinary life?

Wednesday — Colossians 1:19-23

"Through Him God reconciled to Himself all things... making peace by the blood of His cross."

Ponder: Where in your life do you need reconciliation or peace? How can you trust God to restore it?

Thursday — Ephesians 2:11-16

"For He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier... His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two."

Ponder: What division in your life or community needs Jesus' peace to bring healing?

Friday — Ephesians 4:1-3

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Ponder: Which virtue—humility, gentleness, patience, or love—do you most need to practice this week to reflect Christ's peace?