



A Better King
Advent 2020

WEEK 2: THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Read the text: Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace who brought the peace of God to earth. His peaceful rule is both eternal and ever-expanding. At his birth the angels proclaimed “peace among those with whom he [God] is pleased.” Jesus’s life was the fullness of God. He went to the cross in our place to satisfy the just demands of the law and be for us the righteousness of God. His rule of peace in our lives begins with Him changing our hearts and reconciling us to God as our mediator. Then, as He rules over our hearts with His peace, He also gives us the message and the ministry of reconciliation. As we experience reconciliation with God, we experience peace

in life and pursue others with Jesus's gospel message of reconciliation.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Peace in Isaiah's prophecy is the biblical word "Shalom." Andy Crouch writes this about Shalom: "it refers to more than the absence of conflict – it anticipates the full flowering of the created world and God's image bearers." Where in your life right now needs God's shalom? Where is your life not experiencing the peace of God?
2. Our lack of "peace" in our life connects to unmet desires... desires we may be seeking to fulfill apart from Jesus. What specific need for God is revealed in your unmet desire? Be honest and specific about the need you have revealed in your desire or longing you are experiencing.
3. What would it look like to turn to God to meet your need?
4. What do your relationships say about God? Are there relationships in your life right now that are not at peace or that need reconciliation? What next step might God be calling you to take to pursue reconciliation?
5. Who in your life needs to experience the peace of Christ this Christmas? What tangible steps might Jesus be calling you to take in order to help this person experience the peace of God?