



Journey Group Lesson for "The True Meaning of Christmas" - December 19, 2010

Getting Started

In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Charlie Brown is struggling to find out why Christmas is so depressing. He tells Linus, "Christmas is coming, but I don't feel happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel." Have you ever felt this way about Christmas? Talk about it if appropriate. Why do you think so many people have a hard time at Christmas?

Charlie Brown wants to know the true meaning of Christmas. When Linus reads from the nativity story from stage, everything becomes clear for Charlie Brown. Christmas is about Jesus and the peace that He brings. Why do you think it is so easy to miss the true meaning of Christmas?

Digging Deeper

Read Luke 2:8-14.

Read verses 13-14 once more. How do you think people generally understand these words? Do you think the angels were saying there would be peace of the earth because of Jesus? Why or why not? What do you think we miss out on when this verse is viewed through this lens (of "world peace")?

Read Luke 7:36-50; Mark 5:24-34; and John 14:25-27

In what ways do you see the peace of God being demonstrated in these passages?

Greg said that the peace about which Jesus spoke was not the absence of conflict rather it was the presence of God – meaning God is with us. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

Bringing It Home

How does knowing that God is with you help you to have peace and face whatever problem comes your way?

If appropriate, share a struggle you are currently facing.

Pray for another other for the ability to remember that God is with you in the midst of whatever problem to give the peace that He alone can give.