



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What are three things that you appreciate about your small group?

1. Each of us has different things in our lives which cause us a lack of peace. What are some of those things for you?
2. Read [Luke 2:13-14](#). If this happened to you, today, what would you be expecting from this “peace” that the angels sang about, and would this line up with what we know of Jesus?
3. The “Real Peace of Christmas” depends on being “favored or approved by God.” What is each of our realities without Jesus? ([Romans 3:23](#))
4. How does one achieve this “favored” status, thus receiving the peace only Jesus can bring? Read [John 3:16](#), [Romans 5:1](#), [6:23](#), [10:9-13](#).
5. What are some ways that you personally (or your group) can help others experience this Christmas Peace in Jesus? Spend some time thinking, praying and brainstorming on this, and record some of your ideas in your attendance notes for all our groups to learn from. (Leaders, check the Riverside Small Group Leader Facebook page for responses.)

Day One: [Psalm 59](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 28](#)

Day Three: [1 Samuel 10](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 59](#)

Day Five: [Acts 3](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



MYRC.CHURCH



MESSAGE NOTES

"Give Real Peace a Chance"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

People want peace so much...but it seems _____.
...history tells us that everything but peace has been the most
_____ part of human life since Cain killed Abel.

More than 2,000 years after the angels raised this chorus of peace, our world remains as it always has been, a planet in _____ where violence is commonplace and death and destruction dominate the landscape.

Is the message of peace the angels sang about at Jesus' birth simply a myth, fairy tale, a fantasy, or is this peace even a reality in our _____ world today?

1. What Did the Angels _____? (note [Luke 2:14](#))

The angels were not announcing _____ peace...
The peace that the angels sang about was not assured to all, but only to those who experience God's _____.
But the peace the Bible speaks of (the peace we all need and want so much) is far more than the _____ of war.

2. Knowing the _____ Peace of Christmas

How can we be _____ or *approved* by God, so that we can receive the peace Christmas promises?
We all fall short of God's _____ (note [Romans 3:23](#)).

There's only one way to be favored by God and know His peace, and that is to place our faith and trust _____ in the One whose birth we're celebrating now...

Today let's recognize that Jesus was not born to simply provide us with another holiday to celebrate, or to be an _____ of a good person.

You and I need more than an _____.

What we need is a _____ ([note Luke 2:11](#)).

The _____ gift of Christmas is that God gave the world His only Son (note [John 3:16](#)).

When we place our faith in Jesus, _____ (turn away from) our sins and place our trust and offer our lives to Him, then God tells us, *we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ* (note [Romans 5:1](#)).

How can I find Christmas peace?

- I want to invite you this Christmas season to *give peace a chance*...
- Will you *give peace a chance* in your life today by saying ' _____ ' to Jesus as Lord?
- Give peace, *peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*, a chance in your life today by _____ Him as your Forgiver and Leader.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *[MYRC.LINK/CONNECT](#) or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
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MESSAGE NOTES

"Give Real Peace a Chance"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

People want peace so much...but it seems elusive.

...history tells us that everything but peace has been the most consistent part of human life since Cain killed Abel.

More than 2,000 years after the angels raised this chorus of peace, our world remains as it always has been, a planet in turmoil where violence is commonplace and death and destruction dominate the landscape.

Is the message of peace the angels sang about at Jesus' birth simply a myth, fairy tale, a fantasy, or is this peace even a reality in our broken world today?

1. What Did the Angels Sing? (note [Luke 2:14](#))

The angels were not announcing universal peace...

The peace that the angels sang about was not assured to all, but only to those who experience God's favor.

But the peace the Bible speaks of (the peace we all need and want so much) is far more than the absence of war.

2. Knowing the Real Peace of Christmas

How can we be favored or approved by God, so that we can receive the peace Christmas promises?

We all fall short of God's standard (note [Romans 3:23](#)).

There's only one way to be favored by God and know His peace, and that is to place our faith and trust completely in the One whose birth we're celebrating now...

Today let's recognize that Jesus was not born to simply provide us with another holiday to celebrate, or to be an example of a good person.

You and I need more than an example.

What we need is a Savior (note [Luke 2:11](#)).

The greatest gift of Christmas is that God gave the world His only Son (note [John 3:16](#)).

When we place our faith in Jesus, repent (turn away from) our sins and place our trust and offer our lives to Him, then God tells us, ...we have *peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ* (note [Romans 5:1](#)).

How can I find Christmas peace?

- I want to invite you this Christmas season to *give peace a chance*...
- Will you *give peace a chance* in your life today by saying 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord?
- Give peace, *peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*, a chance in your life today by receiving Him as your Forgiver and Leader.

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