



Sermon Discussion Guide

12.8.24 Message | Chuck Sackett | Isaiah 9:6-7; Romans 5:1; Philippians 4:7

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.

- Isaiah 9:6-7

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Romans 5:1

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 4:7

Message Highlights

- A wonderful life isn't always the life we planned, but it's the life God uses for his purpose.
- Peace can overshadow brokenness when we know God's ultimate gift—his Son.
- Even when evil seems to win, God's ways create a more righteous world.
- Integrity and goodness often bring out the best in others and transform our communities.
- God offers us peace now and for eternity through his Son.

Conversation Starter

Looking back on your life, what's one unexpected twist that turned out to be a blessing?

Discuss the Message

- How does the idea of God using our unplanned lives challenge the way you view your current circumstances?
- In what ways can knowing that every person has value and purpose shape how you interact with others?
- How do the themes of sacrifice and community in *It's a Wonderful Life* connect to your own experiences?



Think Deeper (Does your group understand the passage?)

- How does the promise of Isaiah 9:6-7 give us hope in uncertain times?
- In what ways can the peace described in Philippians 4:7 change your outlook on struggles?
- What does 'justification by faith' in Romans 5:1 mean for our daily lives?
- How does knowing Christ as "Prince of Peace" challenge our understanding of true peace?
- What is one step you can take to align your life with the promises in Isaiah 9:6-7?

Think Life Change (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- What areas of your life feel broken and how can you reframe those circumstances to see God's providence?
- What role does faith play in helping you trust God with your unmet expectations?
- How might embracing God's peace change the way you handle stress or anxiety?

Think Engage (Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)

- What does it look like to "seek the peace of the city" in your own context?
- How can you encourage someone who feels like life isn't going as planned?
- What practical ways can you bring peace into your family or workplace?
- How can you share the hope of Christ's peace with someone struggling this season?

Think Kingdom (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- How does this message challenge us to live with eternity in mind?
- What does it mean to view your struggles as part of God's greater Kingdom story?