

# UNWRAPPING CHRISTMAS

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**Unwrapping Christmas: Prince of Peace**  
**December 28 & 29, 2019**  
**JACKSON ROAD: Brian Earl**

1. Our message included a mention of an “emotional support” piglet. What is your emotional support go-to?
2. At the beginning of his talk Brian shared some statistics.... 50% of adults will be diagnosed with a mental illness in their lifetime. 20% of Americans will be diagnosed with a mental illness in any given year. Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in America – with it being the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death in the 10-34 age group. What surprises you about these statistics?
3. What is the center of your attention in this season? What kind of event, activity or situation generally grabs your attention?
4. Read Mark 5:3-5, 19-20  
What strikes you most about this man’s transformation? Have you seen a drastic transformation in your life or in the lives of others? Share with the group.
5. From the passage in Mark 5, Brian stated if Jesus can handle this man’s situation, he can handle our situation. Do you believe that is true? Do you believe that Jesus can fix you? Why or why not?
6. Read Isaiah 11:6-9, paying special attention to verse 9  
Brian said, “peace is the result of knowledge”. How has learning more about Jesus resulted in more peace in your life?
7. Brian said one of his goals in the talk was to bring “movement toward Jesus so peace will increase”. What movements will you take this week toward Jesus to bring more peace in your life? What is a practical way you can introduce peace to the people around you as well?

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**GRAPE ROAD: Pastor Jimmy Fleshman**

1. Pastor Jimmy shared a story of how he used to work with “Uncle P”, who always seemed to know how to calm people down. Is there someone in your life that is like that? Have you experienced someone bringing peace into a situation in your life?
2. Is there an area of your life where you could use a little more peace?
3. Pastor Jimmy taught that Jesus brought peace by practicing some silence. Do you believe there’s power in silence? Have you ever practiced being silent? Is that an easy thing for you or something that is more difficult?
4. Read John 8:3-8  
When questioned by the Pharisees, Jesus didn’t respond right away, but took His time before responding. Why do you think He did this? Why is it significant that he paused before responding?
5. Pastor Jimmy said that it’s better to sit in a moment of awkward silence than to just say whatever comes to mind first. How do you handle awkward silence? Do you see it as an opportunity to think and pray before you speak?
6. Jesus spoke truth in a way that allowed peace to follow His words. Why do you think the words we say are so important? What can you do to start sharing more truth in your everyday life?
7. Read John 8:3-11  
Jesus pointed the women to a life of peace, giving instruction to leave her life of sin. Is there a next step that Jesus is telling you to take in order to receive His peace? What truth is God speaking into your life?