



SHEPHERDS - PEACE

Luke 2:8-18

Message Reflection Guide

Through a personal relationship with Jesus: We find peace with God. He came to live life perfectly and died in our place to pay the consequence for our sin. His death made peace between our sinful nature and God's holy nature. His coming back to life gives us hope of living in peace with God. We find wholeness and peace with ourselves. Our esteem is based on what God thinks of us — something that never changes — instead of on the fluctuating foundations of others' opinions, fleeting accomplishments, or changing circumstances. Our identity is based on who God has made us to be, not on the things that we do.

We find wholeness and peace in our relationship with others because we begin to change and see people through God's eyes. We remember that God first loved us, and we grow in wanting to extend love to others. We can bring healing and wholeness to others around us, in the communities, the cities, and the world we live in. We begin to see hope for change in others and the world around us.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What aspect of the Christmas season is causing you the most stress right now?

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES – Read Luke 2:8-18

On Sunday Pastor Jason said Peace is not the absence of conflict, rather it is a shelter amid conflict. That is the peace Jesus offers to everyone. 1 Timothy 2:5 How have you experienced the peace of Christ during a difficult season of life? What does it mean that Jesus is our mediator between us and God the Father?

Experiencing peace requires that we acknowledge the conflict in and around us. Romans 5:10 Jesus came to bring peace on earth. First and foremost, He came to make peace between God and rebellious, sinful human beings. In what ways do you experience conflict in your heart and mind? What type of conflict do you see happening in your work or family? How does it affect you? What are the negative consequences of "burying your head in the sand"?

Experiencing peace requires the work of Jesus in us. Philippians 4:6&7 How do you know when you are experiencing symptoms of anxiety? What do they look like? What helps to calm your anxiety? Some say the opposite of peace is control. In what ways do you feel anxiety is linked to issues of control in your life? What do you need to surrender to Jesus?

CHALLENGE

Take time this week to identify what is robbing you of peace during this Christmas season. Ask the Holy Spirit for help to turn your focus back on Jesus and receive the peace that only He can give.