

STUDY NOTES

ADVENT 2019

A Series At New City Church

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message "The Surprising Peace of Jesus" on 12/8/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this study guide effectively, you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:8-14; ISAIAH 9:6-7

MADE FOR PEACE

In the love of God, we were all created to be in perfect peace. We weren't meant to live in a world filled with chaos and evil, and yet, that is what we face every day. Over the Advent season we celebrate the coming of Jesus, who is described as the "Prince of Peace."

In Christ, peace has come.

- Everyone desires peace in different ways at different times. In what specific areas of your life (big or small) are you longing to feel the peace of God?

FEARING GOD BRINGS THE PEACE OF GOD

Read Matthew 10:38-35. The peace that Jesus describes isn't what we'd expect. But we have to know what true peace means before we can fully understand it. The peace and presence of God is so pure and glorious that it scares us. There is something about purity that we both love and loathe. We desire it, but we know we fall so short of it and we are convicted by it. We have to be shocked by the glory and presence of God to find our way to true peace.

You can't have the peace of God without the fear of God.

The fear of God precedes the peace of God.

- What is your experience with people who face Jesus but feel too uncomfortable to follow him and find true peace?

"Those who meet Jesus always experience either joy or its opposite, either foretastes of Heaven or foretastes of Hell. Not everyone who meets Jesus is pleased, and not everyone is happy, but everyone is shocked." - Peter Kreeft

- What are some specific ways that Jesus is convicting you of your sins?

WHERE'S THE PEACE?

God brings peace to us through Jesus Christ. That is the message of Christmas; of Advent. The Prince of Peace has already made peace with God. But if this is true, why do so many of us lack the feeling of peace? We are being tricked to find peace in the wrong kingdom. The prince of darkness is trying to distract us from our need for the Prince of Peace.

When we lose peace, it means we've forgotten where it comes from.

- What are some ways that you see everyone around you trying to find peace in their own power and in the wrong places? How do you fall into the same traps?

PEACE WITH SELF AND OTHERS

When we connect to the Prince of Peace, rather than the prince of darkness, we are able to relate to both ourselves and others in a peaceful way. We no longer have to feel like we are competing with others. We no longer have to feel like we are lacking something that others have. When we allow the Prince of Peace to rule in our hearts, it allows us to love others—and ourselves—correctly.

- A good way to gauge whether or not you are living with Jesus's peace in your life is to look at how you are loving other people. How would you say you are doing in loving others around you?
- Pray with each other to experience the peace of God in this Advent season.