

Advent

T H E K I N G ' S C O M I N G

WEEK 4: *Peace*

At this time of year, *Peace* can certainly seem elusive. Even outside of the holiday season, *Peace* can be hard to come by, whether it be due to a busy season of life, maybe difficult family situations, or perhaps internal turmoil. Those without *Peace* know that peace truly is a gift, a gift that Jesus tells us he gives to those who believe in Him. So what does that mean, and how do we access that gift?

Let's look at some scriptures together this week to help us understand better what Jesus' gift of *Peace* looks like in our lives.

Peace in Reconciliation: READ Luke 2:14, Isaiah 9:6, Romans 5:1-5

Jesus is called the Prince of *Peace*.

— If Jesus is the prince, who is the King?

— If Jesus brings *Peace*, from where did the conflict stem? Who is it between?

Peace in Struggle: READ John 14:26-27

— As Jesus is preparing His disciples for His physical departure, what two things does Jesus tell them he will leave with them?

— What two commands accompany these gifts?

Read: John 16:33

— According to this passage, what is guaranteed in this life?

— How can we have *Peace* in the midst of this?

Considering what is about to happen immediately following this conversation, in John 18-19 (glance at the headers for clues), how does Jesus model peace in adversity in these last moments with His disciples?

Peace in Relationships: READ Romans 12:9-21, Hebrews 12:14

— Once we have tasted and received the *Peace* of Christ, what then are we to do with it?

— How should that *Peace* play out in our lives on a daily basis?

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for Jesus, who you sent to earth to become our *Peace*. Thank you that He reconciles us to you, satisfying your justice and fulfilling your law, that He gives us His power and strength so we can have *Peace* in our struggles, and that He reconciles us in community with each other, giving us patience and grace to live in *Peace* with those around us.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.*
- St. Francis of Assisi -

*"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'
- Jesus, Matthew 6:9-13 -*