



Light of the World, Pt. 3: From Conflict to Peace

An angel announced “peace on earth” at the birth of Jesus, and yet the season of Christmas can be anything but peaceful. So what was the “peace” that the Angel proclaimed? In what ways can we experience the peace that was promised?

Bottom Line: To have peace you must pursue peace.

Discussion Questions:

1. Talk as a group about the Christmas movies you’ve seen and name your favorite. Now think about the movie you named. Does this Christmas movie have any conflict with the characters? Most Christmas movies have some type of conflict written into the plot. Why do you think this is?
2. Share a time that you experienced conflict during Christmas. What steps did you take to avoid it or resolve it?
3. What is the difference between the way we normally think about peace and how first century Jewish people would have understood it? Is peace possible in the midst of conflict? Why or why not?
4. **Read Colossians 1:19-22.** How does this passage speak to you?
5. **Read Matthew 5:9, Peter 3:10-12, and Ephesians 4:25, 29.** Is there a person that you can extend God’s grace to this Christmas? Discuss with the group what steps you can take to make peace.
6. **Read Matthew 5:44.** Why is obeying this command so difficult? What is the point of Jesus’ statement?
7. Which of the action steps was most helpful to you?
 - ~Embrace humility
 - ~Own your part in the conflict
 - ~Refuse to take the bait
 - ~Speak words that are true & helpful
 - ~Keep loving and praying
8. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
9. How can the group encourage you this week?

*If time doesn’t allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.