



SESSION 3 - PRINCE OF PEACE

SERIES BIG IDEA

The one whose Name is above all names wants to be our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

As Prince of Peace, Jesus brings wholeness to our lives.

SCRIPTURE JOHN 14:23-27

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Use this time to get everyone comfortable with the topic and ease into discussing their lives. This question is meant to open your group members to the idea that although we celebrate Jesus being our Prince of Peace at Christmas, often we feel least peaceful at this time of the year.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

When Jesus is called the “Prince of Peace” it means that he’s the Son of the King who will make all things right, who will fix all brokenness. Jesus’ followers thought he’d come to rule like the kings and emperors they’d always known. They expected Jesus, the Messiah, to be a conquering military hero who would annihilate the oppressive Roman Empire and rule over God’s people as a religious and political authority.

But he proved to be a different kind of Messiah than who they were expecting. He was the Messiah who loved the outcast and touched the leper and bent down to wash his disciples’ feet. He taught about loving your enemies and picking up your cross and losing yourself to find a life worth living. And then he willingly went to the cross. He was a different kind of Messiah than who they were expecting, and yet he comforted his followers with these words: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27).

Jesus came to bring peace, wholeness, and completeness. He came to restore broken hearts, not just “rule” a kingdom. He came to bring us a peace that is so much deeper than an absence of conflict or a feeling of easiness. It’s a peace that’s not dependent on circumstances. In fact, it’s peace even when everything seems to be going to pieces.

LIFE APPLICATION

Most of us celebrate and experience two different Christmases: the Christmas we want, and the Christmas we get. In 2017, the world is broken and fractured. This is the Christmas we get: the threat of nuclear war, the greatest refugee crisis of our generation, the terror of people being run down in rented trucks, the racial tension that divides us, the toxic political landscape, and the growing opioid epidemic. Personally, we may be flat broke, or we’re watching relationships break apart, or we’re physically broken. Maybe we’re experiencing bullying or lost friendships or dangerous addictions.

There was a lot of brokenness on the very first Christmas, too. There was a powerful empire that ruled with an iron fist, the people worshiped pagan gods, and the poor were oppressed into desperation. Before he could even say his name, Jesus was forced to flee with his family as refugees, being hunted down by an evil king who called for genocide.

In a broken and fractured world, we’re going to have trouble. But Jesus reminds us we can take heart. We don’t have to go through life in constant fear because Jesus is bigger and stronger than anything we’re facing. He will walk with us through the most challenging seasons of our lives, maturing us and growing us in ways we could never have imagined. He can bring his wholeness to even the most broken pieces of our lives. We can take heart because Jesus has overcome the world. He’s overcome all the hurt and pain and evil and brokenness this world unleashes, and he can overcome our brokenness, too.

CHALLENGE

This year, no matter which Christmas you get, let this be the Christmas you need. May you receive the peace God has for you and then allow God to share that peace with others through you.