

The Promise of Peace

Advent 2020

Discussion Questions

IN THE SCRIPTURE: READ ISAIAH 2:2-4

1. **Read Isaiah 2:2-3.** If the “mountain of the house of the LORD” refers to the Temple in Jerusalem, what statement is Isaiah trying to make about the future the Messiah will bring? How complete or comprehensive is this vision of the future? What in the passage leads you to this conclusion?
2. **Read Isaiah 2:4.** How does Isaiah depict the rule of the Messiah in the “latter days”? What stands out to you about this verse? Why?
3. **Read Luke 2:8-14.** What is the message of the angel to the shepherds? How does this relate to the prophecy of Isaiah 11:2-4? From what you know about the state of Israel in the days of Jesus, why were the Jews also very desirous of peace? [Answer: They were under Roman oppression]
4. **Read Luke 19:41-44.** What was Jesus’ response as he looked over Jerusalem? What led him to this response? What did many of his countrymen assume the Messiah would do to the Romans?

IN THE SERMON

1. What are the different ways people try to get peace in their lives (e.g., change other, change circumstances)? Why do they tend to offer only short-term results? Can you describe a time or situation when someone’s strategy for getting peace in his or her life was unsuccessful? Why was that the case?
2. How is Jesus’ way of achieving peace different than the world’s vision of gaining peace? What does 2 Corinthians 5:21 tell us about God’s strategy to bring us peace?
3. Read Romans 5:9-11. What does it say about how God who we were before the grace of God in Christ? How does the Cross change our status before God? What is that new status? What does it mean to have “reconciliation”?

4. How can we make sure to remind ourselves of the peace we have in Christ this Advent season?