



## Table Discussion Guide

**Week 3** - "I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day"

**Main Point:** We should bring peace to the world

### Discussion Opener

Share a story about a time you made peace with someone.

### Discussion Questions

1. Read the lyrics of "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" out loud.
2. The Author of the song, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, heard the Christmas bells ringing in Cambridge and the singing of "peace on earth", but he observed the world of injustice and violence that seemed to mock the truthfulness of this optimistic outlook. The song is written in the middle of the American Civil War. Have you ever looked around at all of the brokenness in our world and felt discouraged? What is it you see that discourages you most?
3. When it comes to peace, what are the greatest challenges we face to seeing that come to: our life, our families, our workplaces, our world, etc.
4. *There Is Hope:* The song eventually leads to a settledness of confident hope even in the midst of bleak despair as he recounts to himself that God is alive and righteousness shall prevail. However you answered in the previous two questions, there is hope for every situation. Jesus *can* and *has* brought peace. How does the hope and peace of Jesus encourage you in your life? In what ways do we need to shift our perspective in light of this hope?

**Practice/Discipline For the Week:** *Advent Scriptures.* Because we are in the Advent Season, we are encouraging you to continue reading through the scriptures on the next page.

## ***Promise of the Savior***

Promise of the Seed to Adam - Genesis 3:15

Promise of the Seed to Abraham - Genesis 22:15-18

Promise of the Seed to Judah - Genesis 49:8-12

Promise of the Seed to David - 2 Samuel 7:8-16

Promise of the Son to the Nations - Psalm 2:1-12

Promise of the Virgin Birth - Isaiah 7:14

Promise of the Coming King - Isaiah 9:2-7

Promise of the Coming Ruler - Micah 5:2

## **Anticipation of the Savior**

Joseph's Anticipation of the Savior - Matthew 1:18-25

Mary's Anticipation of the Savior - Luke 1:26-38

Elizabeth's Anticipation of the Savior - Luke 1:39-45

Mary's Song in Anticipation of the Savior - Luke 1:46-56

Zechariah's Anticipation of the Savior - Luke 1:67-79

## **Birth of the Savior**

The Birth of the Savior - Luke 2:1-7

The Birth Announced by the Angels - Luke 2:8-21

The Birth Celebrated by Simeon - Luke 2:22-35

The Birth Feared by King Herod - Matthew 2:1-8

The Birth Celebrated by the Wise Men - Matthew 2:9-12

## **Reflecting on the Savior**

Reflecting on Christ's Incarnation - John 1:1-14

Reflecting on Christ's Redemption - Galatians 4:4-7

Reflecting on Christ's Salvation - Titus 3:4-8

Reflecting on Christ's Exaltation - Revelation 5:1-14

Reflecting on Christ's Promise to the Nations - Revelation 7:9-12

Reflecting on Christ's Future Restoration for Believers - Revelation 21:1-5