

## Day 1: Far Off, Brought Near

**Reading:** Ephesians 2:1-13

**Devotional:** Before we can experience the peace that Jesus offers, we must first recognize our need for Him. Like watching a Christmas movie where conflict must be acknowledged before resolution comes, we must see ourselves as we truly are—far from God because of our sin. The beauty of the gospel isn't that we were good enough to reach God, but that while we were "dead in our trespasses," Christ reached down to us. His blood didn't just improve our situation; it fundamentally changed our position from "far off" to "brought near." This Advent season, pause to consider: Do you truly grasp how far Jesus came to bring you close? Your peace with God didn't come from your moral effort or religious activity—it came solely through Christ's sacrifice. That's worth celebrating.

**Reflection Question:** In what ways have you been trying to earn peace with God rather than simply receiving it through Christ?

## Day 2: Jesus Is Our Peace

**Reading:** Ephesians 2:14-18

**Devotional:** The text doesn't say Jesus brings peace or offers peace—it declares "He himself IS our peace." This is revolutionary. Peace isn't a feeling we chase or a circumstance we arrange; peace is a person we know. Jesus didn't just tear down the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles, between religious and irreligious—He tore down the wall between humanity and God. Every barrier of hostility, every obstacle of sin, every separation caused by our rebellion was demolished at the cross. When you feel anxious about family gatherings, stressed about finances, or overwhelmed by conflict, remember: you don't need to find peace in perfect circumstances. You need to turn to the Person who is peace. Jesus doesn't give you peace like the world gives—temporary, circumstantial, fragile. He gives you Himself, and in Him, peace is permanent, unshakeable, and always accessible.

**Reflection Question:** How does knowing Jesus IS your peace change how you approach today's challenges?

## Day 3: Peace in the Body

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**Devotional:** Because we've received peace with God, we're called to live in peace with one another. The church isn't meant to be a collection of individuals who occasionally gather—it's meant to be one unified body working toward a common mission. Just as a football team succeeds through unity and shared culture, the church thrives when we recognize we're on the same team. This requires intentionality. It means learning names, knowing each other's children, choosing reconciliation over division. The world is filled with hostility—political, racial, social. But the church should be different. We should be the people where walls come

down, where unlikely friendships form, where peace isn't just talked about but demonstrated. This week, as you gather with fellow believers, remember: you're not just attending a service; you're part of a body that's been reconciled by the same blood.

**Reflection Question:** What specific step can you take this week to build unity and peace within your church family?

## **Day 4: Proclaiming Peace**

**Reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Romans 10:14-15

**Devotional:** Jesus came proclaiming peace to those far off and those near. Now, as His followers, we carry that same message. But here's the challenging question: when you walk into a room, do you bring peace with you? When you come home from work, does peace enter your house? When you engage on social media, are you an agent of peace or division? Our calling isn't just to experience peace; it's to proclaim it, to embody it, to spread it everywhere we go. This doesn't mean avoiding difficult conversations or pretending conflict doesn't exist. It means approaching every situation as someone who has been reconciled to God and therefore can be a reconciler among people. Your home should be known for peace. Your workplace should feel your peaceful presence. Your online interactions should reflect the peace of Christ. The gospel you believe should be visible in the peace you bring.

**Reflection Question:** Where in your life are you bringing conflict instead of peace, and what needs to change?

## **Day 5: The Peace That Satisfies**

**Reading:** John 14:25-27; Philippians 4:4-7

**Devotional:** Here's the ultimate question: Is Jesus enough? If heaven offered everything—restored bodies, reunions with loved ones, no pain, no tears—but Jesus wasn't there, would you still want to go? Our faith can subtly become about the benefits rather than the Person. We want peace in our marriages, health in our bodies, provision for our needs. These aren't wrong desires, but they can't be our ultimate treasure. The arrival of peace isn't primarily about getting what we want from God; it's about being brought near to God Himself. When Jesus said, "My peace I give to you," He wasn't offering an emotion or circumstance—He was offering Himself. The peace that surpasses understanding doesn't come from having all your problems solved; it comes from having Christ in the midst of your problems. This Christmas, celebrate not just what Jesus brings, but who Jesus is. He is your peace.

**Reflection Question:** What would change in your daily life if you truly believed that being near to Jesus is enough?

**Closing Prayer for the Week:** Lord Jesus, You are our peace. Thank You for

tearing down every wall that separated us from the Father. Help us to live as people who have truly experienced Your peace—bringing reconciliation to our relationships, unity to Your church, and hope to a broken world. May our lives proclaim the message that peace has arrived, and His name is Jesus. Amen.