



PEACE

Peace & Pace

**The peace of
Christ calls us to
slow down.**

SERIES SUMMARY

Through Advent, the teaching in our large group gatherings is titled "Tidings of *Discomfort* and Joy." It's a nod to the reality that joy is often found on the other side of our willingness to embrace discomfort & risk, as seen in the Christmas story itself!

In our small group gatherings, we'll explore the other side of that coin: "Unless and until we rest in God, we will never risk for God" (Mark Buchanan).

Together this Christmas, we'll see that peace and joy can be found in unexpected circumstances.

ICEBREAKER

Are you one of those Christmas Eve gift shoppers?

SCRIPTURE

Read the prophetic word spoken by John the Baptist's father in Luke 1:67-79.



LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. Zechariah echoed the voices of prophets and a people who'd been waiting for hundreds of years. What contributes to our own culture's inability to slow down and wait for things?
2. Jesus came "to guide our feet into the way of peace." Do you agree with the statement that the path to peace is never hurried?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. What is your body communicating to you about your current pace of life? What might be driving that pace?
5. Zechariah waited 9 months to regain his voice. Can you share about a season of waiting from your own life?
6. What does hurry tend to produce in you?

WRITING A NEW STORY

7. What tends to drive our pace of life in the holiday season?
8. What are some simple practices (driving slower, putting the phone away, going to bed earlier) you could adopt to slow your body down?
9. Consider your kids/grandkids. Does anything need to be done to unhurry their lives?

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Father, be our shepherd, set our pace. Slow us down to see your goodness. Amen.

