



Peace & Person

The peace of Christ can only be found in the person of Christ.

■ 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

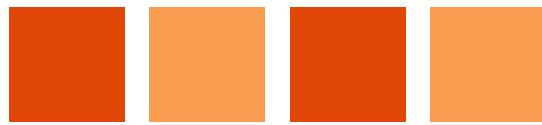
- What do you want for Christmas this year?



■ SCRIPTURE

- Read about Joseph’s dream in Matthew 1:18-25.





LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

Even Jesus' names are good news:

1. Jesus means "God saves." How have you witnessed that name giving people peace?
2. Immanuel means "God with us" and Jesus promised to be with us even to the end of the age. When have you witnessed God's presence giving people peace?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

3. What stirs in your heart when Scripture describes God's throne room as surrounded by a "sea of glass" — an environment of perfect calm and stillness? Is this typically how you view God's presence?
4. Why might it be hard for us to simply enjoy the presence of Jesus? What barriers do we have?

WRITING A NEW STORY

5. What are some ways you believe God invites us to embody the peace of Jesus in our families, in our workplaces, or in our neighborhoods?
6. Do you have any Christmas traditions that help remind you of what a gift Jesus is, and what a gift His presence is?

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Jesus, Immanuel, thank you for coming. For being with us. For being our Prince of Peace. May we carry your Kingdom of peace into the year to come. Amen.

Access our curriculum digitally through the Small Groups tab of our church's app.

