



PEACE

*Peace &
Presence*

**The peace of
Christ calls us to
be present.**

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

Tell about a time you or someone you love couldn’t get home for Christmas.

SCRIPTURE

Read about the Shepherds who witnessed good news in Luke 2:8-20.



LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. In what sense has the angels' promised "peace on earth" already come? In what sense are we still waiting?
2. What are some "let's go see" examples of things you can't just hear about, you need to actually experience it?
3. What typically prevents us from being present in our day?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. What is stealing your peace in this season of your life?
5. What is your typical go-to response when feelings of anxiety or confusion surface?
6. How have you seen Jesus meet you in your confusion or pain?

WRITING A NEW STORY

7. How do you create space to be present with Jesus?
8. What has helped you have the most success in being present with your friends & family?
9. What are some ways Christians could be counter-culturally present in our day and time?

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Father, keep us present to you, to your peace, and to those we love.
Amen.

